

JUNIOR SCHOOL DISCO

As I had never been to a WHGS Disco before, I didn't know quite what to expect. After going I now know that I will definitely be going again next year!

The disco was for charity, the tickets were £1.50 a head, and it was held in the New Hall from 7.30 until 10pm.

The School had hired a DJ and he played a couple of action-songs as well as just dancing ones.

The teachers I noticed there were: Mr Gracey, Miss Kelly, Mr Greenall and Mr Sharp. There might have been more hiding away in the corners somewhere, trying to escape being forced to dance, but I'm not sure. Mr Gracey impressed us all with his up to date dancing, NOT!

There was also a snack table with drinks and crisps, which everyone needed after about two hours of non-stop dancing!

After the disco there were even some new couples, (of course I wouldn't mention anyone's names), I'll just say 1C and leave you to figure out the rest.

Towards the end they played some slow songs, such as "Take That" and "Babe", and "Time of my Life" from "Dirty Dancing". The only thing that really disappointed me about the entire evening was the fact that they didn't play Mr Blobby! It was No 1 at that time and I think they got quite a few requests for it too. The DJ kept saying, "All right, who's the clown who asked for Mr Blobby?"

There was also a sheet of paper going round with requests for the DJ to do messages, such as "All the girls fancy *?/?/?/?!" and "/*/?/?/? looks gorgeous tonight, Love from Mr X!". In the end there were four sheets of A4 paper filled to the edges; of course the DJ didn't get chance to say all of them (much to some people's disappointment!).

Thanks to all the organisers, teachers and Sixth Formers, for a great Crimbo Disco! Thanks especially to Mr Sharp, who organised it all.

See you there next year!

Julia Atherton (1B)



Senior Staff Nurse Carolyn Roe and Senior Nurse Clinical Specialist Vicky Mellor receive the cheque for the £150 raised by the Junior School Christmas Disco from Jenny Porter and Daniel Naylor.

(Photo: J. H. Thomson)

THE HOPWOOD READING COMPETITION

This year's Hopwood Reading Competition produced high quality readings from competitors in both the Senior and Junior sections.

In both sections, a piece of prose and poetry was read by competitors who needed to show skills of expression and also be articulate.

In the Junior section, the piece of prose was from Charles Dicken's "Oliver Twist", while the poem was "Tom Cat" by Don Marquis. The winner of this was Levinia Clemetson of 2A.

In the Senior section, the piece of prose was from "Vile Bodies" by Evelyn Waugh and the poem was "Windhover" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

All competitors gave excellent readings, but special commendations go to Chloe Duckworth (1C) in the Junior section and Andrew Hickey (4X) and Gabrielle Miller (L6A7) in the Senior section.

Michelle Cowan (L6A7)
(Winner of the Senior section)

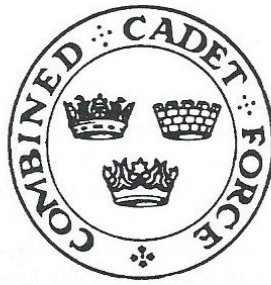


Our Sphere of Influence

- Adding value to businesses in Manchester and 110 countries around the world.
- Contact Alan Clarke, Ernst & Young, Commercial Union House, Albert Square, Manchester M2 6LP. Telephone: 061-953 9000.

 **ERNST & YOUNG**

Authorised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.



ARMY SECTION

OPEN EVENINGS

Up to twenty cadets of all ages, boys and girls, RAF and Army, volunteered to man the Corps Display area and talk to prospective pupils of the School and their parents on three Open Evenings this year. As well as talking, they demonstrated our Signals equipment and encouraged the children to handle the Cadet Rifle and the old No 8 .22's. The School saw the cadets at their very best, revealing a charm, tact and enthusiasm that is not always so readily on offer! Our cadets have added a marked and unusual dimension to the School's efforts on these important occasions, and have visibly won over and impressed our visitors. Their contribution is appreciated by all of us.

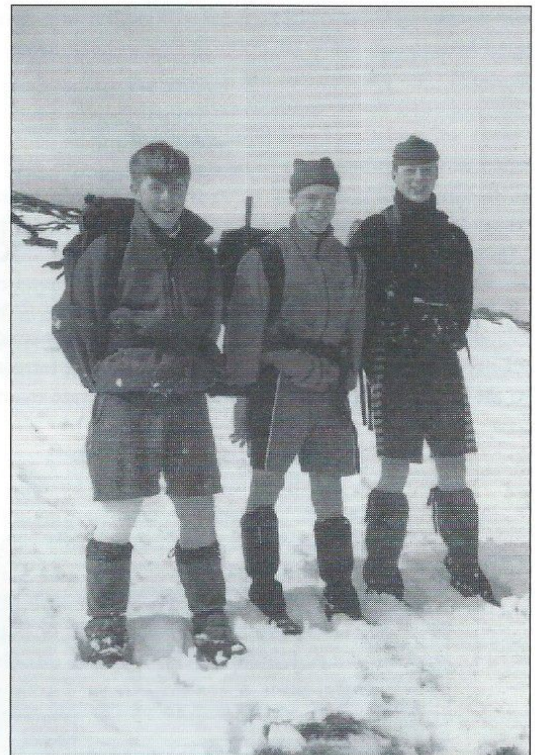
RECRUIT/JUNIOR PLATOON

Our first Field Day was spent at Holcombe Moor Training Centre. The Cadets, along with the majority of the Sixth Form NCO's took part in a twenty-four hour battle handling exercise run by their officers. The purpose of the Field Day was to build upon all the military skills that had been touched on at Summer Camp at St Martin's Plain. The exercise included sessions on section battle drills, patrolling and ambushes.

The Lent Field Day was spent at the brand new HQ of our Cadet Training Team in Manchester. The programme included a signals period, weapon handling and climbing on the excellent artificial wall.

The final Field Day in June 1994 was spent at Holcombe Moor. The emphasis this time was on leadership, range instructions and the Krypton Factor Assault Course. A very high standard of marksmanship was shown by all the cadets who fired on the new gallery range.

I have been very impressed with this platoon throughout the year. Their regular attendance on Monday evenings, their smartness, and their enthusiasm for everything has made my job a relatively simple one. The Army Proficiency Certificates which were presented to the platoon by the Head Master were well-deserved.



Under-Officer Gareth Roberts and RSM Mathew Newns with Sgt Andrew Chance (left) on Moel Siabod, Easter 1994
(Photo: Maj Fisher)

APC (Recruit Platoon) 1994

Distinction:	Guy Brocklehurst Louise Ives	Edward Choularton Jane Lawson	Sarah Cochrane Miles Newton	Michael Dodd Simon Waind
Merit:	Geraldine Brook Andrew Gough Oborio Ofoche Caroline Shaw	Philip Buxton Katrina McKay Jonathan O'Keefe Preyesh Vara	Paul Edmundson Francesca Matthews Tariq Rashid Victoria Williams	Frances Edwards Colin Ogden
Pass:	Paul Amadi Rachel Nightingale	Mark Buckley Ali Shah	Henry Hutchinson Craig Leasor	Christopher Longsdon Alexander Xidacis

Capt M P Jones

SENIOR PLATOON

The Senior (Fifth Form) Pn spent the Michaelmas Field Day with the rest of the Section at Holcombe Moor as usual, sharing their experience with the younger cadets. In March, however, they went up to the Lake District on a self-reliance exercise, accompanied by Capt Simkin (Pn Officer) and Maj Fisher. The intention was to complete the Kentmere horseshoe, but conditions were so severe that by the time Yoke and Mardale Ill Bell had been completed the party was very tired, and beyond us lay the point of no return! Since we all wanted to return, the sensible decision was to walk off the mountain into the valley below and back to the vehicle. As we reached lower ground and the snow began to thaw it was still quite treacherous underfoot and the cadets were pretty exhausted by the time the track was reached. Nevertheless this was a good challenging day's hill-walk, and the boys and girls all learned valuable lessons about kit, stamina and mountain conditions. Morale was high as we drove into Kentmere village, and spirits rose further when a bloody-minded Lakeland boulder lurking in the bank launched itself wickedly at Maj Fisher's front wheel as he crawled past all unsuspecting.

Before Easter the Platoon completed an NCO's Cadre run by Lt Titchener OC26CTT and as a result the following belated promotions were made (Cpls list in order of merit on Cadre):

To Sgt:	Cpl	Zoë Fisher			
To Cpl :	L/Cpls	Martin Cheung	Bernadette McCurrie	Jonathan Flatman	Anthony Holden
		Alex Warhurst	Vinnie Pohoomull	Kamron Khan	Abby Hyams
		Ankish Patel	Carrie Litherland	Natalie Mason	Andrew Nunney
		Namit Kapur	Marcus Carulli	Tanveer Rahman	John Cunningham
		Alice Caine			

KING'S CUP 1993

This year's competition was for the first time held at Leek Training Camp. The new structure of the King's Cup was based on "Executive Stretch", where companies send their managers to become team players! Eleven cadet detachments from all over the North-West took part. We were determined to improve on our third position last year and once again be the CCF to set the pace. We took part in sixteen separate events and the results largely speak for themselves:

- 1) Volleyball - First in our Group
- 2) 5-a-side football - First in our Group
- 3) Stretcher Race - First in our Group and fastest time of all contingents
- 4) First Aid (Road Traffic Accident) - Third in our Group
- 5) Raft Building and River Crossing - First in our Group and fastest time of all contingents
- 6) Landrover Repairs - Second in our Group
- 7) Night Orienteering - First in our Group and fastest time of all contingents
- 8) Military Kim's Game - Third in our Group
- 9) Javelin Simulator - First in our Group and best individual score
- 10) Live Fire - 30m Range - First in our Group and highest possible score achieved.
- 11) Antennae Erection - Third in our Group
- 12) Weapon Handling Tests - First in our Group and highest possible score
- 13) Fieldcraft Tests - First in our Group
- 14) Map Reading Test - First in our Group
- 15) Military Knowledge - First in our Group
- 16) Assault Course - Third in our Group.



King's Cup, October 1993: The Team
(Photo: Maj Fisher)

However, the nature of the final event meant it was impossible for us to win. Although we had beaten every other unit, we still came second in the Eliminator. This event involved a three-legged race around the camp, followed by a stretcher race and then finally, the assault course. Despite everyone's best efforts, Townsend ACF just pipped us and it seemed scant reward for all our effort..

All the boys who represented the School were superb and could not have done any better. We still have the best results over the past five years for any Contingent in this competition. The team consisted of:- C/Sgt Gareth Roberts (Captain), Sgt Anthony Sheldon (2 i/c), Cpls James Brocklehurst, Andrew Chance, David Grove and Terence Sales, L/Cpls Andrew Nunney and Ankish Patel.

Our thanks to 5/8 Kings for all the planning and organisation that went into this year's competition.

Capt M P Jones

ADVENTUROUS TRAINING CAMP

Again this Camp proved as popular as Central Camp in the summer, and reluctantly we agreed to take more than we had intended so as not to turn away keen cadets. It does stretch the human resources (ie Officers) to some extent, but help from outside, together with creative planning, enables us to cope! Conditions in Snowdonia are always unpredictable at Easter so we have become used to adapting the programme at a moment's notice. There is always some worthwhile activity up our sleeve when plans to climb really high or stay out overnight have to be shelved. The weather this Easter ran the entire gamut, but was dry and clear more often than not. After an interesting first day to our innovative expedition the campsite (riverbank? flood plain?) was washed out and the cadets were brought into Camp to dry out so as to be in a fit condition to complete the route. Three separate parties set off on the final day: a group of OH's tackled Snowdon the hard way and made a good job of it ("The best walk I've ever done!" was the verdict). Of the cadets, one group took a comparatively straightforward low-level route through the Aberglaslyn Pass, up over to Llyn Dinas, and down into Beddgelert, and by all accounts enjoyed it a lot. The more hardy and experienced cadets, having been refused permission to climb Snowdon, volunteered to show the adults the way up Moel Hebog. After a few navigational hiccups lower down (caused by complacency rather than incompetence?) and some slightly dicey scrambling on snow-covered rock, an elated party reached the extremely snowy summit plateau and misbehaved in the snow for a while before the Officers imposed their authority...



A group of NCO's leave the summit of Moel Hebog in high spirits, Miss McNaught bringing up the rear.

(Photo: Maj Fisher)

The video footage shot over the next few days shows the full variety of activities undertaken: Mr Dunn came over to Wales to take groups out mountain-biking through the forests with support from Fg Off Gracey and Miss McNaught, Sgt David Nettleton ran the climbing and abseiling with invaluable assistance from Martyn Bratt and Ed Buckley (OH's), the OC and Capt Simkin ran (walked, did someone say?) the orienteering with moral support from Mr and Miss Veevers and Giles Fisher OH, and Capt Jones supervised and filmed the canoeing.

On the last day another high walk was offered, and Messrs Fisher, Gracey and Simkin set off up into Cwm Idwal, intent on climbing up the Devil's Kitchen and beyond if the weather permitted. Steady rain marred the start of the route and Capt Simkin was chosen to lead some of the less confident (and lame) cadets back to Ogwen Cottage. The remainder, delighted with the challenge presented by the slippery scramble to the bwlch above the Kitchen, almost ran up and awaited the arrival of the Officers, who were pacing themselves. Conditions had improved considerably, visibility was fair and the forecast was for even milder weather as the afternoon wore on, so it was decided that we should press on to the top of Y Garn, a direct, safe route which both adults knew and had walked recently. The Met. people had obviously read the wrong horoscope that day, though, and as we climbed visibility deteriorated rapidly and the wind and horizontal hail became irksome. By this time the cadets had decided they'd happily leave the navigation up to the adults, and so we soon found our

way to the summit shelter - not much use as such since the snow had formed drifts inside right up to the top of the walls, as it does! Having reached this far the plan was to follow the ridge leading off the other side of the mountain and descend by a spur which, if rather long and steep, was clearly identifiable and would lead us all safely down to the vehicle waiting at Ogwen Cottage. Well, someone had gone and moved the spur. We knew exactly the spot at which it should drop off the ridge we had followed, but because of the nasty weather and the existence of a snow cornice running down the entire length of this steep and barren ridge, it was simply not to be seen - and it was unnecessarily dangerous to attempt to walk over the edge to find it. Every so often there would be a tiny window in the cloud/mist/snow/clag and menacing black cliffs would loom up at us from below. The rather demoralising conclusion we drew was that we'd have to labour back up to the summit, into the teeth of a fierce and debilitating wind, and then retrace our footsteps (figuratively speaking) down to the little col and back down the Devil's Kitchen, a longer and more uncertain descent than we had planned. Fearing that we might find the rock iced over, we made contingency plans to bivouac for the night, but knowing exactly what would happen as soon as the alarm was raised down below when we failed to reappear. Luckily the Devil's Kitchen proved passable when we eventually reached it, and morale shot up to where it had been three hours beforehand. The view of the Ogwen valley when we came down below the weather was breathtaking, and Capt Simkin's view of our party as we walked up to the minibus without a care in the world was something of a relief to him too, I believe. One of the pleasures of the mountains is that they teach you something new each time you set foot in them. These very strong, fit cadets certainly learned how quickly you can become disorientated, demoralised and exhausted when the weather deteriorates markedly, and that one has to be extremely well-trained and equipped before tackling even the most well-trodden hills in winter conditions.

At the Camp de-brief the following promotions were made:

To CSM: C/Sgts Mathew Newns
Gareth Roberts

To C/Sgt: Sgts James Brocklehurst
Sally Ward

We were all most grateful for the assistance and company of all our adult helpers, those already mentioned, as well as Mel Sherwin and Carol whose catering and late-night conversation were excellent, to Mrs Fisher, and to Jonathan Greenhowe and Danny Wilks (more distinguished OH's), even though they failed to challenge the Officers to orienteering this year! We hope to see them all back next year. (Dates? 6-14 April 1995!)

Maj D M Fisher

CSAAM

Four cadets represented the Army Section at the Annual Cadet Skill at Arms Meeting held at Altcar Ranges in May 1994. This year we produced our best ever performance.

The first shoot involved three separate practices on the Electronic Target Range. The highest possible score was 400. The team shot very well, scoring 232 and came nineteenth out of 43 teams. However our later results were even better. The second shoot involved three very complicated practices. The whole team shot very well indeed and scored 235 out of a possible 300 and came fourth. This result was the best we had ever achieved. The third shoot required very accurate shooting over a sustained period. We did well to score 225 out of a possible 300 and we were pleased to come eighth. Indeed our overall position for the whole weekend was eleventh. The last shoot was the falling plate knock-out. Unfortunately we were drawn against some tough opposition who knocked us out in the fourth round.

The weekend vindicated our pre-CSAAM practice and zeroing, revision of marksmanship principles and teamwork. Our highest individual positions out of 172 cadets taking part were Terence Sales who came ninth, and Robert Moodie, twenty-first. The other members of our team were James Brocklehurst, Joe Lewis and Sally Ward.

Capt M P Jones

5/8 KING'S OPEN DAY

In May a small group of cadets were guests of 5/8 Kings at Peninsula Barracks in Warrington. The cadets spent a full day involved in a wide range of activities and learning a lot about the role of the Territorial Army. Highlights of the day were the abseiling, the mine detecting and the sniper stand.

Capt M P Jones

"IN SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES"

Throughout most of the last few weeks of the Michaelmas term, over thirty cadets spent much of their time in replica First World War trenches at Arley Hall in Cheshire! Granada TV had chosen the Corps to supply the extras for a drama-documentary about the treatment of British soldiers who went AWOL. Sadly many of the medical conditions we would understand today as "shell-shock" were not recognised by the military authorities in 1914-18 and over 300 young soldiers were eventually shot for desertion.

Two films were made altogether "To Encourage the Others" and "Have a Drink on Me". Both films dealt with the execution of three soldiers in somewhat suspicious circumstances. The films were shown throughout the North-West in February 1994. We were very proud and pleased to take part in the filming. Indeed the producers were extremely complimentary about all the cadets who took part and often had to endure long spells of cold and inactivity. However it was great fun, especially the battle scenes at night. It was also a fascinating insight into the world of television. However, perhaps,

the real value of the experience for the cadets was to appreciate the suffering that boy soldiers, many of their own age, must have endured in Flanders.

I am indebted to the Head Master, Second Master and all my teaching colleagues who tolerated our long absences, sometimes at short notice. I am especially grateful to Mr G H Jones, Mr N P Dunn and Mr A Austen and Mr G Addison who were responsible at various times for large numbers of star struck cadets. (Although it was sometimes difficult to work out where the staff were amongst all the muck and bullets!).

Capt M P Jones

CENTRAL CAMP, PENHALE

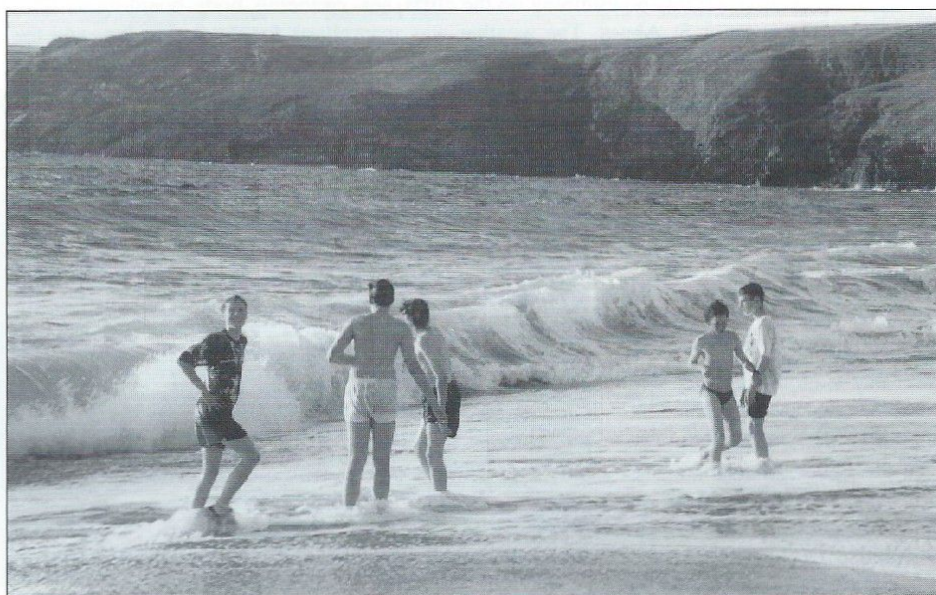


The Assault Course Team, Penhale 1994.

Back row, left to right: Cadets Andrew Nunney, Ankish Patel, Mathew Newns, Anthony Mawson, James Brockleshurst. Front row, left to right: Sarah Cochrane, Colin Ogden, Preyesh Vara.

(Photo: Maj Fisher)

Why Penhale? It's miles away! Exactly. The Corps seeks to give its cadets novel, challenging and beneficial experiences and at a simple level that includes introducing them to new Camps in different regions with different schools and different training personnel now and again. It also spreads the good word about how impressive the boys and girls of William Hulme's can be when pitted against cadets from schools which are household names all over the country! Oh, yes - and Penhale Camp is built on the cliffs overlooking one of the loveliest beaches in Cornwall, but that is coincidental.



New recruits quickly acclimatise to life in the Corps.

(Photo: Maj Fisher)

A nine-hour coach journey seemed rather excessive, but it included a very thorough spot-check on the coach by the Police at a motorway service area. No sooner had we arrived than we were preparing to move out on exercise the following morning. This was no mean feat, with fifty-five cadets and recruits to brief and equip - with bivouacs, rations, hex cookers, radios, weapons and ammunition - then to move out onto the training area. The morning was spent in a period of consolidation, planning and dry training in preparation for the major phases of Ex Griffin's Surprise. Thanks very largely to the willingness of Cpts Simkin and Jones to think and plan on their feet and to work non-stop with their platoons throughout an exceedingly hot day and night, the exercise was a major triumph. Patrols went out, attacks went in, and the finale was orchestrated to perfection. During the course of a complicated evening a team of cadets had to be removed from the training area to take part in the Orienteering Competition, then returned to the exercise to ambush the successful fighting patrols. They did remarkably well, all but two of them finding every control point, (unlike the majority of schools), and came second in the competition. CSM Gareth Roberts and Cpl Andrew Holden completed the course in two of the fastest times, and the other members of the team (all volunteers) were CSM Mathew Newns, Sgts Kathryn Arran and Robert Moodie, Cpls Natalie Mason, Ankish Patel and Alex Warhurst, and Cdts Obi Ofoche and James Jobling. A very encouraging start and an indication of the determined performance we were to see throughout the Camp.

The next day, after a hectic early morning cooking breakfast, dismantling bivouacs, cleaning weapons and marching back into Camp, the Contingent had a break to shower and change into sports kit, and we were off to Ladock Wood orienteering. The afternoon was spent being instructed on the assault course, enabling us to select our team for the inter-contingent contest later in the programme.

On Tuesday the Military Skills package was unusually static, despite an element of patrolling. Two of the three stands were First Aid, where more effective casualty simulation would have brought it to life a little, and Survival Techniques, which was entertaining and of some practical use (slug cuisine stimulated considerable interest, I remember). That evening our March and Shoot Team had to do their stuff. Tactically they might have done it differently in retrospect, whereas they decided to play it straight and bring their entire team in together - it is a team event after all. The march phase was slow, therefore, but the shooting good, and we ended halfway up the field. Later there was time for a quick visit to the beach, and a swim for those with some energy left after three days out in the hot sun.

The fourth day's training was devoted to communications, and was conducted by a team from 11 Signal Rgt. In addition to a long day's instruction, the Sigs team made themselves available on three consecutive evenings to teach and classify some twenty of our cadets. The following are now trained and entitled to wear the crossed flags on their uniform:

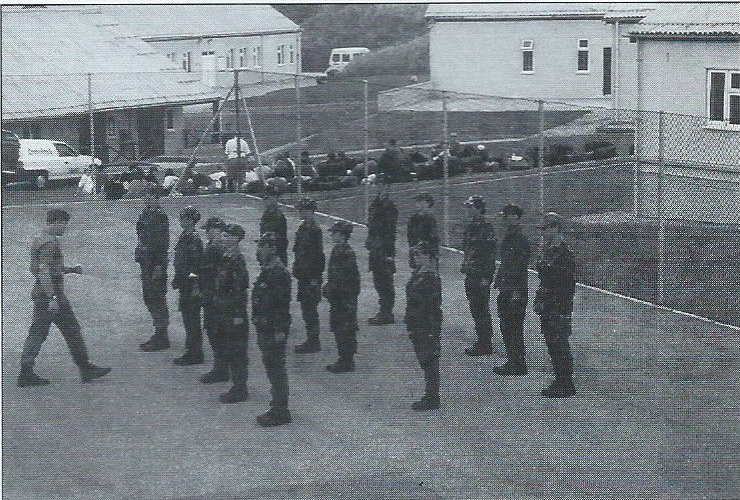
Cdts	Buxton	Newns
	Choularton	Ofoche
	Cochrane	Patel
	Flood*	Rashid
	Holden	Roberts*
	Huften	Tabatabaei*
	Hyams	Vara
	Jobling	Waind
	Lewis	Warhurst
	Mawson	Xidacis

* = recruit

Lack of time to contemplate, plan and prepare put paid to our chances in the Assault Course Competition. We had a strong, determined team, but they were probably rather short on experience, and uncertainty cost us too much time over an unusually short course. Although they were all disappointed with the outcome, teamwork was not the problem, as can be seen from their picture.

A small team of officers and cadets had been goaded into accompanying Miss McNaught on her 6am runs along the cliff path and down to the beach, so when Adventure Training Day came there were several extra-fit people raring to go. It was organised as a round robin of abseiling and climbing on the cliffs, sea- canoeing, body-boarding in the surf, and working with inflatable boats down the coast at St Agnes. The weather was marvellous for the entire day, and the cadets found it demanding but obviously very enjoyable. We were pleased to have a visit from Major David Oak from 42 Brigade in Preston who was interested to listen to our cadets and to compare the training at Penhale with what was on offer at our local Camp at Warcop. In the evening some senior cadets went to try their hand on the nearby go-kart track, while others took on and beat the camp staff at softball, during the course of which we were able to hear the local Cornish dialect at its most colourful.

On the final day Captain Simkin, with the assistance of Mr Buckley, Miss McNaught, C/Sgt Sally Ward and Cpl Andrew Nunney, took the Recruit Pn through a training package tailored to their needs: starting with an instructional video, they then moved into the training areas to practise Duties of a Sentry, Section Formations and the like, and ended the day with a drill period conducted by one of the senior soldiers on camp, RSM Wills.



RSM Wills instructs the recruits in the basic drill movements.
(Photo: Maj Fisher)

Once again we were indebted to Miss McNaught and Mr Buckley for their willing and enthusiastic help on Camp. The female cadets made a presentation to Miss McNaught on the last evening, as they did to Mathew Newns whose last (and first) Camp this had been. Yet it was chiefly the very high standards of behaviour observed by the cadets which made this particular week such a success and such a pleasure for the adults involved. Their turnout was more than a match for the other Contingents, they took great pride in saluting (usually officers), and they showed an enthusiastic, appreciative attitude towards the instruction. A young officer from a major public school with a celebrated military tradition whose cadets spent a day training with us congratulated our boys and girls on their smartness and manners, and when we handed over our billets to the camp staff we were told that they were in the best order of any they had seen. This is exactly what we all wanted to hear, especially since we were the only school representing Manchester in the Camp.

To U/Offr CSM Gareth Roberts
To RSM CSM Mathew Newns

The Best Recruits on Camp were: Rachael Lee Chris Johnstone Glynn Roberts

- Gareth Roberts left Camp early to attend pre-RCB, which he has passed.
- Peter Ireland has passed RCB itself and is now destined for a career in the Army.
- Wayne Mason, on Teaching Practice at Eton, has been given a glimpse of how CCF's can be run elsewhere; more like a small private army, was his impression!
- James Brocklehurst put his public First Aid qualification to good use this year instructing recruits in their APC with the help of Sgts Sally, Kathrynne and Annie!
- The Range is still out of commission: we have had a new floor, since when work has stopped. Letters have been written...
- Congratulations to C/Sgt Terence Sales on his outstanding shooting in this year's CSAAM
- Maj Goodall has retired from the Army and is now running an outward bound school in North Wales. We wish him every success in this venture. Lt Matthew Titchener KINGS has replaced him as OC26CTT.
- The Corps prizes this year have been awarded to U/Offr Gareth Roberts, RSM Mathew Newns and W/O Richard Pimblott.

Maj D M Fisher

RAF SECTION

FIELD DAYS

Each term the section has a Field Day. For the RAF Section this means a chance to see what it's like to fly in a small twin-seater, single-engined monoplane, the Chipmunk.

Cadets Rachel Aldersley and Priti Shah had their first experience of this in the summer term:

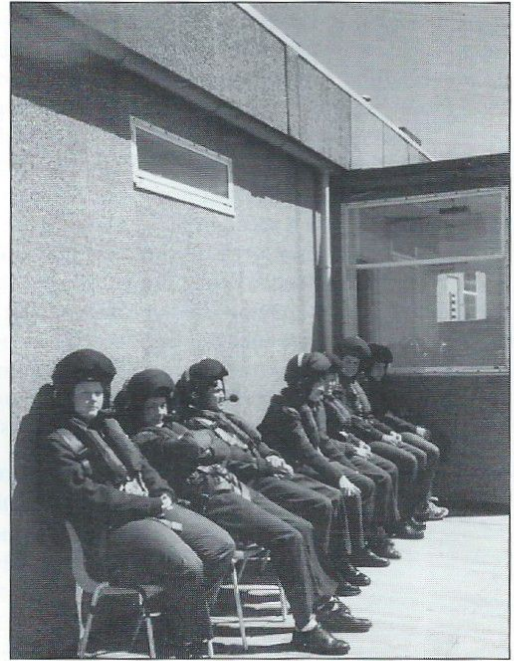
When we reached RAF Woodvale we got out of the bus and marched to a room where we watched a film all about the Chipmunk and flying safety precautions. First-time flyers were then kitted up with parachutes and all necessary equipment.

We were then taken outside but had to wait a long time as the wind was too strong for safe flying. After hours of anticipation we were taken to the plane and strapped in. The pilot introduced himself and we prepared to take-off.

The runway was bumpy as was the ride just after take-off. As we climbed above the trees the flight became smoother and we found we could see all along the coast, to Blackpool Tower and Rhyl. The pilot let us take control of the plane and issued instructions. Control of the Chipmunk was simple.

After landing we made our way to the 10AEF Building. Here our flying gear was removed and we rejoined our groups for teaching and marching practice. After a long day, we were very tired on the way home.

Rachel Aldersley (3X)



New recruits waiting for 1st flight at RAF Woodville.

Occasionally, when flying is not possible, we do other activities. All RAF cadets are expected to become proficient in map-reading in case they have to bale out over unfamiliar territory! Cadet Kate Williams reports on the day when the section went orienteering to Beacon Hill Park near Preston:

On this February Field Day we were split up into groups of three or four and sent off with a map and compass to find different letters around the park. We completed the easy course which was five letters on wooden posts which we had to find. We arrived back long before any of the other groups and then set off on the harder course. We now had to find ten letters. In doing so we got rather cold and wet but otherwise thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Kate Williams (4L)

GLIDING

Each year a few RAF cadets get the chance to go gliding. This means that you have to come into school early on a Sunday morning for an hour's journey to RAF Sealand, hoping that the weather will be suitable for flying. Cadet Jackie de Freitas had such an opportunity:

The visit to RAF Sealand was one of the highlights of the year. At first I wondered if our journey would be wasted as weather conditions were not good and it seemed likely that the gliders would be grounded.

When we arrived we made ourselves comfortable in the tiny common-room which opens off the huge hangar in which the gliders are kept, and prepared for an early lunch. This gave us the opportunity to make friends with other CCF and ATC cadets.

As the weather improved, excitement mounted and we prepared the gliders for take-off. Soon we were being catapulted into space, an experience not to be missed.

Although the gliders were airborne for only a few minutes at a time, as there wasn't a great deal of lift, three flights made the day worthwhile.

I would recommend gliding to everyone and hope to win a gliding scholarship next year, when I'm sixteen.

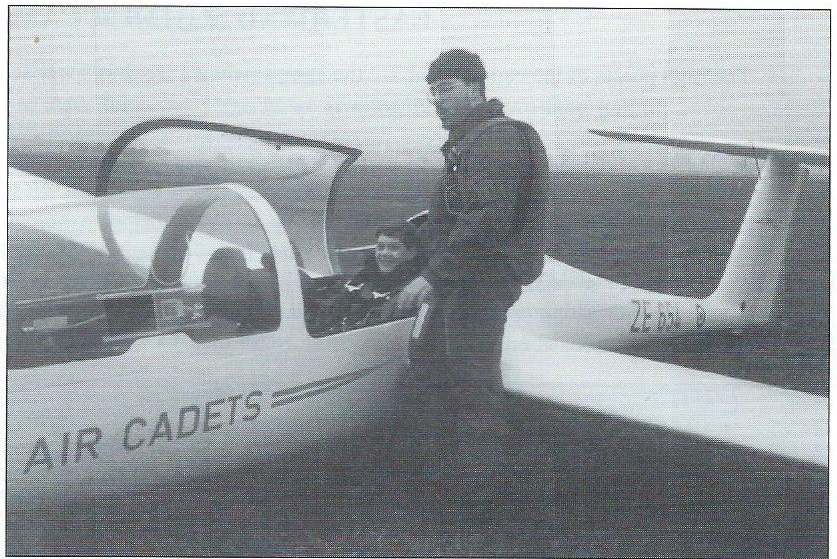
Jackie de Freitas (4Y)

Senior cadets, if they are fortunate, have the chance to learn to fly gliders themselves. Sergeant James Vickers was one of these fortunate few.

Gliding is one of the most enjoyable ways of flying. Training to solo standard is one of the best ways of doing it. Being on a gliding course is nothing like a normal cadet camp. We noticed this because there was an ATC camp on the base at the same time as us. We were there to fly and only to fly - no early morning inspections, no drill competitions, no uniform. Those who were on camp looked a little jealous when we sauntered to breakfast at about 0800 in our flight gear (they had already experience reveille at 0600, breakfast, inspection, drill etc). The whole week was non-stop flying and working with the gliders. There was some ground school but nothing too strenuous. As at most flying schools, "Top Gun" quotes were all over the show, and sunglasses were de rigeur. We also hummed tunes from "Big Breakfast", which was on every morning before the day's briefing. It got so bad that I was doing pre-flight checks to the tune of "One lump or two."

The solo was the highlight of the week and something I will never forget. I did mine on a circuit that I had used three times out of about 70 launches. Finals were over electricity pylons so it was all a bit hairy. Gliding is one of the best things I have done with the cadets.

James Vickers (L6S6)



Cadet Andrew Matson in a glider.



Cadet Andrew Matson in a glider.



Sgt. Colclough & Cpl. Porter in front of a jet stream after a flight.

EASTER AND SUMMER CAMPS

The high points of the cadets' year are the camps, when a week is spent at an RAF base.

EASTER CAMP

Junior Corporal Paul Bagnall clearly enjoyed his week at RAF St Athan in South Wales.

Having arrived at our host station, three of us, James Kingsley White, Jim Crawshaw and myself, Baggers, were given the opportunity to abandon the normal camp programme and take part in a week of adventurous training with the "Auxiliaries." This offer we snapped up immediately and trotted down to the Auxiliary section to be briefed by the "Big Boys," excited but anxious about what they had in store for us.



RAF Easter Camp, April 1994. RAF St Athan.

We were greeted by our friend-to-be, leader and idol, Flight Sergeant Tony Williams, or "Boss Man" as he was soon to be known. He gave us an in-depth history of the Auxiliary Air Force, voluntary squadrons serving alongside the regular RAF to assist in the guarding of stations which lack regular manpower due to increasing numbers of civilian employees. In recent years, these squadrons have become official parts of the RAF with their own war-role.

These were the people who were going to be training us, to bring us up to the standards of the "Big Boys" themselves. We couldn't wait!

The next day - one which will always remain in our hearts - was the day we met "Ray the Store Man." A little Welshman with a heart of gold, he tutored us through the whole week, trying desperately to make us into real men!

The training, as is often the case, was split into two halves: theory and practice. The first topic we dealt with was the Skill at Arms. This involved getting to know the L85A gun, the two weapons used armed guards and soldiers, the professionals. These interested in weaponry will realise that weapons such as these are normally out of reach of cadets such as ourselves, so we were in our element, playing with these big toys! The biggest and probably most fun subject that we studied was NBC - Nuclear Biological and Chemical Warfare. This involved spending long periods wearing massive suits and respiratory equipment, doing PE in them and even shooting while wearing gas masks!

However the one subject we covered that may become most important and relevant to our lives was First Aid. This, we learnt, is one of the most important aspects of any sort of warfare, and is of course invaluable in every day life.

Unfortunately, after all the fun of learning and practising our new skills, we were faced with enjoying a day of examinations. This was to the absolute delight of our fellow cadet friends, who were meanwhile thoroughly enjoying their excellent camp programme.

Luckily, but how, none of us will ever know, we all passed the course with flying colours.

We are all very grateful for being given the chance to attend such a course. We all thoroughly enjoyed every moment of it - it was an experience we will never forget.

Paul Bagnall (5Y)



Corporals James White and James Crawshaw and Junior Corporal Paul Bagnall at Easter Camp.

SUMMER CAMP

Cadet Sara Khosneviszadeh went to RAF Finningley for her camp.

The day finally arrived. It was time to leave for camp. Eagerly we awaited the short two-hour journey.

Once we arrived we met the ATC cadets, who were to share our camp.

After some time to unpack, settle in and have a look around, we were given the usual fire, security and general briefing. We left with the exciting news that the best cadet would have a flight in a Tucano.

The next few days were crammed with activities, such as orienteering, Practical Leadership Tasks, firing on the range, interflight sports and other competitions. We also took part in an exercise known as ex-mission. We, the good guys, had to locate an enemy plane which had crashed while avoiding the enemy, who could return. This exercise made full use of our "extensive" First Aid knowledge as we had a few casualties on the way. All the cadets thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

We even spent half a day at the nearby centre called "The Dome." Here we had a choice of ice skating and/or swimming. It was a great day out.

No camp would be complete without a flight in a Chipmunk. Due to the clear blue sky we were able to do aerobatics. I even did my own loop the loop and barrel roll. I was also shown a manoeuvre called "The Prince Charles."

On this camp many lucky cadets were able to have rare flights in Dominies and Jetstreams. Sergeant Jennifer Colclough was chosen as best cadet but unfortunately was unable to fly in the Tucano. Corporal James White was the lucky person who was able to take her place.

The week ended with the interflight drill competition.

All the cadets enjoyed the camp and were very sorry to leave. Everyone is looking forward to the next camp.

Sara Khoshneviszadeh (4X)

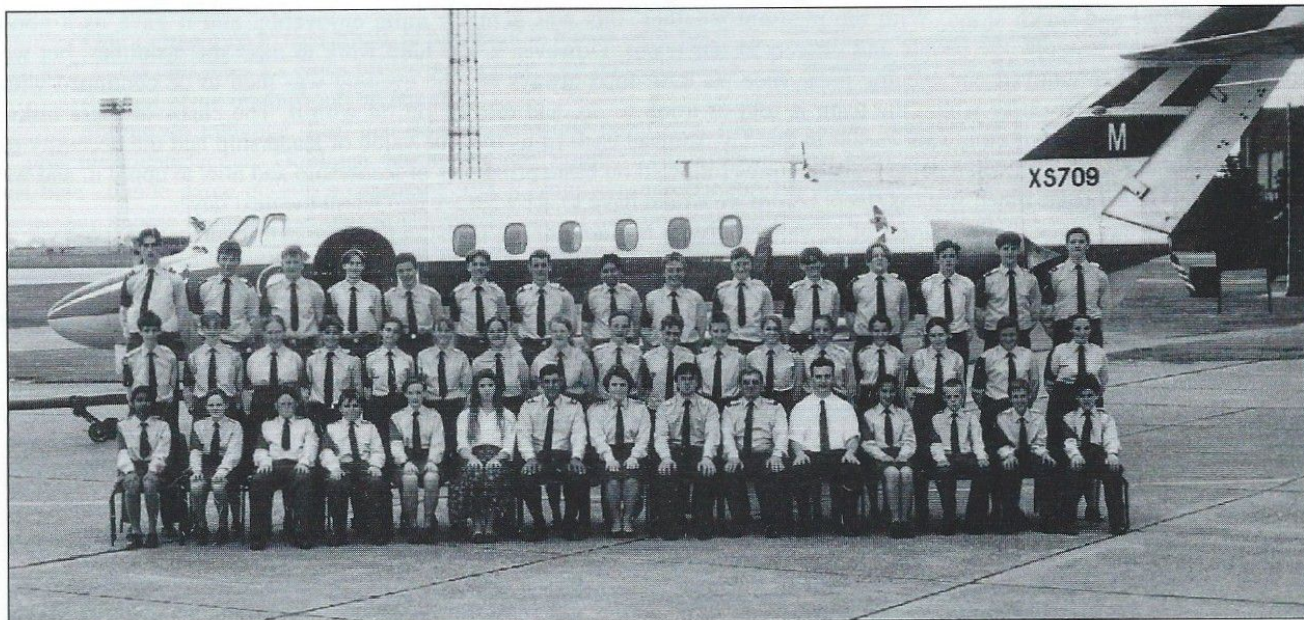
Cadet Rachel Westbrook was one of the fortunate individuals to be given a flight in a Dominie.

We jumped at the chance of a flight in a Dominie and off we went to obtain our oxygen masks, earplugs and flying suits and reported back to the Dominie squadron. Almost immediately we were entering the plane. The flight I was about to go on was a pilot-training flight. There were three people from William Hulme's on the flight, myself, Caroline Ashley and Mr Parsons. The flight began with a fast take-off, much quicker and steadier than that of a Chipmunk and mainly consisted of safety drills for the trainee pilot. The cadets were allowed to watch the pilot perform these drills and hear the pilot and trainee communicate through their headphones. When the flight finally concluded after one and a half hours, the plane came in to land and as it touched down, to our surprise, immediately took off again. Overall the flight was totally amazing. I am very pleased that I was lucky enough to get the opportunity of a flight.

Rachel Westbrook (4X)



Cadets Rachel Westbrook and Caroline Ashley and Pilot Officer Parsons with the Dominie



RAF Finningley – Summer Camp 1994.

(Photo: Crown Copyright. Reproduced by kind permission of RAF Finningley)

Corporal Sarah Porter, accompanied by Sergeant Jennifer Colclough, had the chance of a flight in a Jetstream.

Jetstreams are used as navigation trainers by the RAF and are now very active with the Multi-Engined Training Squadron, part of No 6 Flying Training School at Finningley.

After taxiing around for a few minutes, while the pilot and trainee conducted a variety of checks, we finally took off at about 2.10pm. We rose to about 11,000 feet and then levelled off to 10,000 feet, just above the clouds. The views were breathtaking. All you could see from every window were the tops of apparently endless clouds.

About half an hour later we began to descend as we headed towards RAF Waddington, near Lincoln. Once below the clouds, the pilot pointed out several landmarks as we flew over them - they included Sherwood Forest. We then made a "touch and go" landing (This is when you descend to about 9 feet above the runway, gently touch down with the wheels and then take off again almost immediately) at RAF Waddington. This was the start of about 15 minutes of circuits around the base, each time making similar "touch and go" landings. These circuits gave the trainee the chance to practise both landings and other manoeuvres such as stall turns as well. These circuits were quite fun but after about half a dozen, Jenny and I both began to feel a little unwell!

We then left RAF Waddington for the return journey. We ascended above the clouds once more. Then the pilot discussed with the trainee what he would do if total hydraulic failure were to occur. He ran through some of the standard drills and procedures. Before long we were on our way back down to RAF Finningley. We landed smoothly at around 3.40pm after a very enjoyable flight - a trip well to be recommended to any of you who may get the opportunity in the future.

Sarah Porter (L6M)

HALTON LEADERSHIP COURSE

Through membership of the Combined Cadet Force, we as cadets receive opportunities to undergo many different forms of training and experience different aspects of the Armed Forces. So, when offered the chance to take part in a leadership course this summer, I accepted excitedly and forwarded my application, not quite knowing exactly what I was letting myself in for.

Towards the end of the Midsummer Term, I heard that I had been successful in receiving a place on one of the week long courses. With this confirmation came a substantial amount of literature, including pages and pages of ropes, knots and lashings, all to be learned and practised, and various warnings with regard to the physical side of the course; i.e. be able to run a mile and a half in eleven minutes or get sent home, arrive with tough feet because you will receive blisters, and it generally stated that I would sustain injury during the week, - not particularly encouraging!

The time soon came, and after an uneventful but quite nerve-racking journey, I arrived at RAF Halton in Berkshire. Left at the guardroom, I was directed towards a big group of teenagers, obviously military cadets, judging by the vast quantities of camouflage equipment and webbing. I was comforted to find that each of them was as frightened as I was! No-one knew each other so we were all "in the same boat" and friends were soon made. We soon found ourselves deposited outside a building on a strange base, not knowing what to do next. Luckily some of us used a major aspect of leadership, our initiative, and entered the building; this was when the fun was to start!

We were greeted by some "stereotypical harsh Army general officers, who didn't exactly tell us to make ourselves at home. After individual tests to see if we had learned the information that we had been given, our details were processed and we were sent to our accommodation. The programme for that first evening was an arrival briefing, and an inspection of barracks and kit at midnight! This doesn't sound too bad, but we had to stand through the twenty-minute briefing with our arms stretched out in front of us at forty-five degrees for arriving late. It wasn't exactly fun!

An early start on Sunday, we were to be assembled ready for our BFT (basic fitness test) at 5.30am. To pass this we had to run the stated mile and a half in eleven minutes. Most did and those that failed were given their train tickets home. Breakfast was next followed by a day's trekking. We were given our course of 24 kilometres to be completed in five hours including water and lunch stops. With the pleasant weather, this was actually quite enjoyable, and it gave us a good opportunity to get to know the people and officers in our teams. However it was hard work to meet the deadlines, but we managed it and then enjoyed our evening meal, nice, as RAF food always is. The evening was then to be continued with leaderless exercises, basically where the team is told of a job to do, and told to get on with it. The chaos of these tasks, although fun, combined with the walk earlier in the day, showed each of us the true value of leadership and the necessity to have a leader and work well when being lead. Lectures followed on basic principles of leadership and how to apply it, and we were then left to get some much-wanted sleep, before we would have to act what we had learnt the next day.

On Monday, once the trivialities of an early morning run up into the forest, a tough assault course, and run back; a parade and uniform inspection; and an hour and a half of drill were over, it was time to start putting what we had learned into practise. This was with the use of "dry" tasks; such as getting across rivers marked out by ropes, or climbing make-believe walls. These went on into the evening, and were followed by leadership films, chosen to illustrate to us the various styles of leadership used in history and their effectiveness. Another inspection brought Monday to a close.

Tuesday, to our delight, was to begin with the previous day's run, only this time extended and with a stiff deadline. Once completed, the day was to be spent with further leadership exercises, so that everyone could get an initial chance to lead their team, and everyone could gain experience and learn how to be a good subordinate. We had now completed Phase 1 of the course. Everyone was given a personal debrief on their performance so far. The truth, in many cases, was learned, and determination was increased. However, we were pleased to find out that those who were to be sent home already had been, and that we would be staying to the end - with higher standards. A first-aid and Phase 2 briefing evening followed, and a good night's sleep brought us to the second half of the course.

Phase 2 was basically three days and two nights camping out in the forestry, practising our survival skills; i.e. sleeping ponchos tied between trees and eating warfare rations. This was all, we were told, good character building. In the daytime, we did more command tasks, these were everyone's favourites, as we had to cross real, very smelly canals; climb real bridges and walls, and swing from very real trees. We were now practising leadership properly, having to account for

real-life needs of our team, be concerned highly for safety and execute the various tasks successfully or face failure. It was the fear of failure that kept most of us going, and at such high standards.

Friday soon came, we were to "break" the base camp in teams, and march the equipment the two or so miles back to our accommodation. To keep us in good spirits we were faced with an 18km orienteering exercise that afternoon, which we all enjoyed very much, and used to "wind down". Having said that, it was not yet over, and we still had our reports ahead of us. We were all individually and formally debriefed that evening, and told that we had all passed the course. In our elements, all that was left to do was immaculate our uniforms and pack our kit.

The immaculate uniforms were needed on this, the final morning, for the graduation parade. Unfortunately, with less than had started the course, but the atmosphere was overwhelming with pride and satisfaction. It had been hard work, but we had all made it.

We departed soon after, having learned a lot, become physically fitter, and in many cases better people.

Paul Bagnall (5Y)

The Section would like to welcome the new CCF Liaison Officer, Flight Lieutenant Jeremy Walsh, and we would like to record our gratitude to, in particular, Flight Sergeant Dave Ryan for his unstinting helpfulness and Mr Beggs for helping out with gliding expeditions by driving minibuses and even providing his own car as extra transport.

We are sorry to be losing Pilot Officer Parsons, who will be devoting himself to the study of his beloved minis. He has been a popular and valued member of the Section and will be greatly missed.

Thanks finally to Flight Lieutenant Keable, who has, as always, devoted herself wholeheartedly to the Section and has, this year, succeeded in masterminding the creation of a new, and very smart, office in the Donner Block.

Fg Off M H Gracey

* * *

AN ASSISTANTE'S EYE VIEW

1. Mlle Sandrine Mioux (1992-93)

1. Préfères-tu le style de vie anglais ou français?

Je suppose que je préfère le rythme de vie anglais, par exemple, en France on fait 2 gros repas et toute la vie s'arrête entre midi et 2 h00. Moi, par contre, je préfère manger un gros repas à midi plutôt que le soir. Je préfère aussi la vie sociale en Angleterre. Dans les pubs la vie sociale est nettement meilleure qu'en France. En France il y a des cafés, donc, c'est différent. On va au café avec des amis mais on n'a pas tendance à connaître beaucoup de gens.

2. Où habites-tu en France?

J'habite dans une petite ville en Normandie qui s'appelle Avranches. C'est à 25km de Granville.

3. Aimes-tu le sport?

Oui, j'aime bien le basketball, le handball, le tennis ou la natation. En France on joue au rugby, mais pas tellement au cricket! C'est plus dans les clubs privés qu'on joue à 13 plutôt qu'à l'école. Je ne connais pas tellement le rugby.

4. Quel genre de musique préfères-tu?

J'aime un mélange d'un peu de tout: musique populaire, soul musique, quelquefois la musique classique aussi. J'aime bien Jean-Jacques Goldman, Michel Berger, Simply Red, Simple Minds, Genesis. (En France la ville de Manchester est bien connue parce qu'elle a participé à la Révolution industrielle. En arrivant ici j'étais agréablement surprise: c'est beaucoup moins industrialisé que je n'avais pensé. Il y a beaucoup d'espaces verts et d'arbres ici. En France on aurait beaucoup plus d'immeubles et d'appartements - moins de maisons. C'est vrai que les habitations en Angleterre sont construites horizontalement, alors qu'en France, elles sont construites verticalement).

5. Quels sont tes passe-temps?

J'aime bien faire du sport, lire; autrement sortir avec mes amis. J'ai eu beaucoup de temps libre parce que je n'ai travaillé qu'à mi-temps. Ça m'a laissé pas mal de temps libre.

6. Préfères-tu la cuisine anglaise ou française?

Je suppose que je préfère la cuisine française, quand même c'est plus raffinée, disons. J'étais agréablement surprise par la cuisine anglaise, tout de même. Je pense qu'il y a beaucoup de sauces qui sont très bonnes en France. (La cuisine minceur = avoir une alimentation plus équilibrée - éliminer les graisses, quoi, pour, peut-être, maigrir.)

7. À quel âge peut-on passer son permis de conduire?

Il faut avoir 18 ans. On peut commencer à conduire à 16 ans si on est accompagné d'un conducteur qui a plus de 5 ans de permis. C'est nouveau. Cela est sorti il y a 2 ou 3 ans. Ça donne de l'expérience aux jeunes: cela leur permet d'avoir un adulte qui a de l'expérience lui-même et qui peut le guider. Cela leur permet d'avoir fait pas mal de km avant de passer l'examen du permis de conduire et peut-être, probablement, de réduire le nombre d'accidents parmi les jeunes. Quand on est plus jeune il est plus facile d'apprendre à conduire que quand on est plus âgé.

8. Quelles différences y a-t-il entre cette école et ton ancienne école?

Tout d'abord cette école accueille les élèves de 11 à 18 ans, ce qui, en France, dans le secteur privé, n'existe pas

C'est de 11 ans à 15 ans à l'école

de 16 à 18 ans au lycée

En outre on n'a pas d'uniforme non plus. Je pense que les rapports entre les profs et les élèves sont plus formels en France. Il y a ce qu'on appelle une barrière entre les élèves et les profs qui n'existe pas du moins, en Angleterre, je pense. Je préfère le système ici, oui. Quant au rythme scolaire en France les élèves commencent à travailler à 8h00 et finissent à 17h00. Cela fait une longue journée notamment pour les plus jeunes. Je pense que le système est nettement meilleur. On est noté sur 20; beaucoup de profs ne mettent pas 20 sur 20- c'est quasiment impossible, à part, peut-être, dans les Maths ou des matières comme ça où il y a un certain nombre de points, les profs mettent 18 ou 19 sur 20. WHGS est une école privée. En France, au lycée, il y a des élèves de seconde à terminale. Le brevet - les élèves passent cet examen à la fin de la 3e. On passe le bac de français à la fin de la 1ère et le reste du baccalauréat à la fin de la terminale. On a deux ans pour préparer le bac. En seconde on décide quel bac on va préparer.

9. Que penses-tu des élèves et des profs de cette école?

Les profs et les élèves ici sont très gentils.

10. Quelles différences y a-t-il entre le climat en Normandie et en Angleterre?

Il n'y a pas de grande différence du point de vue climat entre l'Angleterre et l'Ouest de la France, ce qu'il y aurait entre celui-là et le sud de la France. Quand même il fait tout de même plus chaud en Normandie et l'Angleterre est plus humide. C'est la chose qui m'a frappée le plus quand j'y suis arrivée: le taux d'humidité et le brouillard. Aujourd'hui c'est le jour le plus froid en fin de juillet que j'aie jamais vu!

11. Quels autres pays aimerais-tu visiter?

J'aimerais beaucoup visiter le Canada - c'est l'un de mes rêves. J'aimerais vivre au Canada. Je visiterai la partie française mais j'aimerais aussi aller dans la partie anglaise. Je ferais les deux si je pouvais. J'aimerais beaucoup y vivre pour voir un peu plus. Autrement j'aimerais aller un peu partout, en fait. L'accent canadien est un accent drôle pour les Français parce que ça fait un peu campagnard. Les Québécois utilisent pas mal de mots du vieux français en fait.

12. Quel est ton plat anglais préféré?

J'aime bien les jacket potatoes avec les fillings = une pomme de terre cuite au four. En France on fait bouillir les pommes de terre et puis on les pèle, par contre, en Angleterre on les pèle avant de les faire cuire. Les Français ne mangent en aucun cas la peau des pommes de terre. On pèle toujours les pommes de terre. Moi, j'aime bien le Yorkshire Pudding aussi.

13. Quel est ton plat français préféré?

Oh, là, là! C'est difficile. J'aime bien le rôti de veau cuit au four avec des pommes de terre. Je n'ai pas vraiment de plat français préféré. J'aime bien aussi un bon plat de poisson avec une bonne sauce.

14. Est-ce que tu parles d'autres langues?

Je parle un peu espagnol.

15. Où es-tu née?

Je suis née dans la banlieue de Paris. J'ai quitté Paris quand j'avais 2 ans. Je ne me rappelle pas du tout Paris. Je ne regrette pas du tout Paris. Je n'aurais pas aimé y habiter. Je préfère la Bretagne plus que la Normandie. Le Mont Saint-Michel c'est quelque chose à ne pas manquer en Normandie. J'aime beaucoup aussi Saint-Malo, qui est une ville historique, et les restes celtes comme les mégalithes à Carnac.

16. Préfères-tu la mode anglaise ou française?

Je suppose que je préfère la mode française mais j'aime bien une certaine décontraction de la mode anglaise aussi. A Liverpool ils ont une mode tout à fait particulière.

17. Reviendras-tu en Angleterre après être rentrée en France?

J'espère bien passer de nombreuses vacances en Angleterre. Il faudrait que je revienne pratiquer mon anglais pour ne pas l'oublier.

Sandrine (French Assistante)

MLLE FABIENNE DREYER (1993-4)

Manchester is said to be a rainy industrial city, but for me it was a wonderful place to live, and I think it has a lot of personality. Among the things I enjoyed the best was WHGS. I like the way the old beautiful buildings form a contrast with the modern convenient Zochonis Centre, home of the linguists, and the place where some pupils spent hours talking and practising their French conversation. Peut-être fut-il difficile parfois de trouver le mot le plus adéquat, mais..... well it was always good fun as well as hard work!

I hope they enjoyed it as much as I did, and that these samples of "French way of life" gave them the "Taste of France" and made them feel like crossing the Channel to use their language skills "sur le terrain".

October 1993 to July 1994, almost a year in the city, but it has passed really quickly. That's my only regret, I would have liked to stay longer. Still, there is one thing I am sure of, I'll be back and probably more than once!

Fabienne (French Assistante)



GARDNER MERCHANT

*In
Partnership
With*



FIDE · SED · CUI · VIDE

WILLIAM HULME'S
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Greater Manchester & Cheshire Division of Gardner Merchant is delighted to be given the opportunity of managing the Catering Services at William Hulme's Grammar School, from September 1994.

Gardner Merchant is the world's leading contract catering organisation with a success that spans over one hundred years.

With our extensive experience of working in independent schools across the country and the resource of our company, we are confident of our ability to provide a professional Catering Service, specifically tailored to meet the needs and requirements of the pupils and staff of William Hulme's Grammar School.

Health and Safety

We employ our own environmental health officers to ensure all aspects of the Catering Service comply with and exceed Government Legislation.

Provision Of Meals With High Nutritional Value

Our healthwise initiative will ensure healthy eating practices are implemented for the benefit of the pupils and staff.

Quality Assurance

Our quality assurance manual will allow all aspects of the Catering Service to be measured and provide the school with confidence as to the quality and consistency of the Catering Services provided.

DRAMA



GREASE

"Relax, will ya, nobody's watchin' us."

Danny's reassuring words to Sandy at the drive-in movie raised a laugh from the 400-strong audience on all three nights of Miss De Vince's and Mr Greenall's production of "Grease" in early February. The whole cast was indeed thoroughly relaxed and self-confident all evening. More striking were the colossal energy, drive and sheer exuberance as the forty-five members of the company sparked their way through Jacobs' and Casey's "New 50's Rock'n'Roll Musical", originally made famous in the seventies by the film with Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta. This was not only a brilliant production, but a landmark in the history of WHGS school musical drama.

The main theme is the interaction of a gang of boys (the "Burger Palace Boys") and another gang of girls ("the Pink Ladies"), all pupils at Rydell High School, USA, in the late fifties, as they sort out their feelings both about themselves and for each other. At the centre are Danny (Hadley Alexander) and Sandy (Claire Reichl), who have already had a brief summer holiday romance and now meet up again, eventually becoming "steadies" at the end after some false starts and misunderstandings. Claire had the task of turning from a shy young thing straight from the coy world of film actress Sandra Dee and her "Gidget" movies (described in Halliwell's Film Guide as "for *nice* teenagers and their moms and pops"!) into the leather-clad trendy at the end who alone can steal Danny's heart. She came across as suitably wistful and vulnerable, particularly in her two "soliloquy" numbers, "It's raining on Prom Night" - actually an enchanting duet with Samantha Waite harmonising beautifully on set as the "radio voice" - and "Look at me", when she finally resolves to change her persona, "Good-bye to Sandra Dee." This latter number is the more moving since it is a "straight" version of Rizzo's earlier cruel parody of her "goody-goody" style. Claire's two duets with Danny, the famous "Summer Nights" and at the end "All choked up," were a perfect foil to each other. In "Summer Nights" both singers conveyed the deep tenderness underlying the glossy façade required by their friends - they each stepped forward for their reflective closing bars as if to shake off the tiresome presence of other teenagers. This song, and indeed all the songs in the production, gained enormously from the complex amplification from the Lighting and Sound Team. In "All Choked Up", by contrast, their friends' backing was emotionally as well as musically harmonious; they have found each other, sorted themselves out, and the swinging sixties are on the way! Claire brought out too Sandra's gentle kindness - her violence towards Rizzo after the latter's parody song changes to generous, caring sympathy when she hears of her friend's presumed pregnancy. She is also intuitive enough to spot from Rizzo's reaction that it must have been Kenickie.

The other "Pink Ladies", like Claire suitably attired in pink tops or jackets, were a well-differentiated group. Rizzo (Louise Borg) cloaked her deep insecurity in a sarcastic, outspoken, tough style - she was the dominant character among them, the natural leader, not afraid to take the initiative with Kenickie ("You feel like dancin'?") but fiercely refusing help or sympathy and protecting Kenickie's name when she believes herself pregnant. She can be harsh and spiteful towards the other girls, particularly in her cruel parody song about Sandra where Louise's twee grimaces complemented her angular jerky arm and body movements and harsh, metallic timbre. Yet she was almost showing fellow-feeling for Sandy in her scornful treatment of Danny after the "Summer Nights" song; the contempt and anger on Louise's face were unforgettable. In complete contrast, her melodious, plaintive song "There are worse things I could do" showed the deep need to be loved, the self-awareness and even the self-respect behind her shallow mask. A memorable and versatile performance from one of our most seasoned actresses.

Frenchie (Gabrielle Miller) made no secret of disliking her education, even arguing that it's worth having a baby just to get out of school; Gabrielle brought out well the diffidence beneath which Frenchie conceals her own insecurity. She is a drop-out from both High and Beauty Schools, and ends up demonstrating "Miracle make-up" at Woolworth's. Gabrielle expressed well a wide range of moods and qualities - empty-headed vanity, simpering, fishing for compliments, caustic laughter, genuine naive admiration for the apparently sophisticated Marty with her rich marine boyfriend, eagerness to try out her beauty skills on Sandy's unsuspecting ear-lobes, defensive casualness with the Burger Boys, and dreamy self-absorption at the still point of the turning world in the Teen Angel's song.

Marty (Jennifer Garside), with her black silk robe and smart boyfriend, stood out slightly from the others. Jennifer made us feel that Marty was not quite to be trusted even before she betrays Rizzo's confidence. She exuded assumed sophistication mixed with warm-hearted charm, but the mask dropped when her disparaging comment about Rizzo's wine threatened to deprive her of any! Her song "Freddy My Love" showed her real affection for her absent lover; we felt she wasn't just a gold-digger after all. This song also revealed Jennifer's confident and strident but really musical singing voice.

The role of Jan, as detailed in the script, is not a part that many girls would rush to play - she is fat, ugly and greedy. Sensibly, such attributes were not required for or depicted in the Jan of this production, and Sarah Sheldon, who is none of these, was free to interpret the role as the most serious member of the gang, delicately coming to an awareness of her affection for Roger and of his for her in the scene leading up to their delightfully "smoochy" duet "Mooning". Sarah supplied some enriching harmonies in this song, made more moving by the delicate lighting effect of a moonlit background with a

silver moon. There was indeed "a moon out tonight". Sarah showed what the phrase "being serious about someone" means; she really made us feel that she could and would redeem Roger from his less agreeable "mooning" out of car windows!

Two girls outside the Pink Ladies sorority invade the gang, Patty and Cha-Cha. Patty (Alison Soper), the ra-ra cheer leader, bursts in on the group to boast about her achievements to an unimpressed audience before attempting crudely and ruthlessly to take Sandy's boy off her. Luckily she overplays her hand and gets her comeuppance; Sandy makes her mind up to go all out for Danny after Patty's suggestion that she herself may soon usurp her place, and Danny realises his true feelings for Sandy when Patty bitches about her to him as they dance. Alison needed to be pushy and larger than life for this crucial role, and she was - vulgarity, mock charm and loudmouthed conceit were well expressed, but she made us feel sorry for her too in her scene with the boys after Danny has "quit the track team" and puts off seeing her when he comes onto the set. This sympathy however is in turn forfeit when, encouraged by Rizzo, Sandy gives her a black eye - Patty is more concerned with her disfigurement than with losing Danny! (This probably accounted for the speed with which Alison reverted to whole-hearted smiling exuberance in the finale!) In fact, Patty is just the sort of girl Rizzo was singing about in "There are worse things I could do."

Cha-Cha (Geraldine Brook), the "blind date" from St Bernadette's, would certainly not have impressed the nuns there with her hooped flounced mauve skirt and matching garter - just one of the many stunning costumes for the girls. Even when one of the flounces came adrift on the last night, Geraldine danced and acted on regardless like the trooper she is; her sunny, reassuring smile and disarming, self-confident manner succeeded with the clodpoll Eugene where all others had failed.

The only other principal role amongst our girls was Michelle Cowan's interpretation of Miss Lynch. She was the perfect teacher, understanding her pupils and encouraging them to enjoy themselves on their dance night, pretending to share their enthusiasm for the visiting DJ, Vince Fontaine, yet never descending to be "one of them". She is firm and strict even with the aggressive Sonny, who is scared stiff of her after boasting to his friends that he won't let her tell him what to do. We felt from Michelle's interpretation that Vince's praise of her is well justified; Michelle made us feel she really cared about her pupils.

The "Burger Palace Boys" were as energetic and as well differentiated as the Pink Ladies. Their leader Danny, Sandy's eventual "steady" and main male character, was Hadley Alexander. Hadley combined outward macho charisma with a deeper sensitivity and even insecurity. His two songs with Sandy, the famous "Summer Nights" duet in Scene 2 and the final "All choked up" when at last they realise and rejoice in their feelings for each other, were delivered with just the right blend of budding self-awareness, awe and irrepressible youthful élan, and his solo at the drive-in movie was straight, thoughtful and tuneful. Above all, Hadley brought off superbly the awkward conflict between his desire to impress his friends and his growing affection for Sandy.

Filip Pasterski's guitar-slung Doody was clearly the nearest any member of the gang got to being a "Mr Nice Guy" of the Buddy Holly or even Cliff Richard type, and getting away with it with his mates. If Sandy had not changed her style at the end, he and she would have been well matched. His song "Those Magic Changes" about the notes of the scale was probably the most appealing to the old fuddy-duddies in the audience (like the present reviewer) who enjoy simple, meandering melodies. He and Roger (Chris Bell - see below) grooved their way through "Rock'n'Roll Party Queen", the opening bars, velvet-like, spicing the darkness of a scene change.

Rashad Al-Safar as Kenickie, by contrast, was appropriately brash, dare-devil and loutish - his "Greased Lightening" song was a highlight, with his fellow Burger Boys synchronising perfectly in their athletic backing. Rashad and Mark Abadi (Sonny) certainly won the prize for the most aggressively staccato American accents - Mark had no song, but his acting was memorable - particularly in his sheepish kow-towing to Miss Lynch after he has boasted of his ability to defy her strictness, and in his final pairing-off with the flashy but equally love-lorn Marty.

Finally among the Burger Boys, Chris Bell as the "mooner" Roger excelled both before and after his "once for all conversion experience" to his more wholesome "mooning" over Jan. Their duet was a high spot (viz. *supra* à propos of Sarah).

For obvious reasons, Eugene (James White) is not one of the Burger Boys. James was the perfect clean-limbed, myopic, gauche outsider, earnest and boring, who makes good in later years and becomes President of the Old Rydellians. Carl Gerezi as the Teen Angel who sings the poignant "Beauty School Drop-Out" to the school-less and jobless Frenchie came across as a "teeny bopper" idol of the Philip Schofield variety. Paul Bagnall's Vince Fontaine was really cool à la James Dean, slick and confident; and Robert Clyne gave a fine account of the fellow-student Johnny Casino, who is too busy running his rock'n'roll band to find much time for the antics of the Burger Boys. Robert's song "Born to Hand Jive" made a lively background to the dance contest.

Finally, among the individual actors, a special mention needs to be made of Jennie Green, Aaron Greenall and Simon Waind, the screen idols at the drive-in movie - Jennie's tense little "Oh!" could never be forgotten! The flickering blue light throughout this scene was just one of the many fine effects from Dr Barker's and Mr Austen's splendid lighting, carried through with real professionalism by Michael Bartlett, Kit Brown and crew in the gantry, with its constant shifts and highlights. The other 25 members of the Chorus were all equally dedicated - the vitality through all the chorus numbers was stunning. As Miss De Vince put it in her speech at the end on Friday night, "Everybody gave 100%. There was no moment when anyone was doing nothing." This colossal sense of pace was due largely to the wonderful choreographical training from Fran Leaver - everyone knew when, where and how to move, always with total self-confidence, no mean feat for so large a cast on so (comparatively) small a stage. The opening numbers in each Act, particularly "Shakin' at the High School Hop" which hurtled us into Act II and gave the Chorus its big chance to shine without the principals, were riveting, and the concluding "We go together" in each half made a fitting if strenuous climax. Another impressive feature from all the cast was the efficiency and speed of the many slick costume changes, particularly from the girls. The costumes were as varied and as attractive as they were authentically 1950's.

The Chorus, excluding those already mentioned above, consisted of:- Jon Howarth, Daniel Power, Guy Brocklehurst, Tariq Rashid, Andrew Farrell, Zoë Fisher, Sophie Stevenson, Carrie Litherland, Karen Vites, Debbie Mosley, Joanna Gregory, Nita Goodman, Sophia Crilly, Cemile Egeli, Alice Caine, Claire Babington, Kim Hayden, Michelle Fearnley, Joanna Shaw, Georgina Goodman, Caroline Shaw, Bernie McCurrie, Katrina MacKay and Ellen Nicholson.

Mr Hofton's "swan song" as Stage Manager after nine years was one of his best. Samantha Waite's set design was utterly professional; the 50's advertisements on the wing flats, executed by Samantha, and by Simon Whittingham and Chris Dixon with their team, prefigured (or post-dated?) the style of Andy Warhol, and the neon Burger signs and 50's furnishings were convincing.

"Grease" is a musical, not just a play. The two musical directors, David Bradford and our own Mr Dewhurst, spent countless hours training the songs and providing 40% of the five-piece band on the nights - Mr Bradford at the piano and Mr Dewhurst, together with Mr Andrew Wilson, supplying the (tenor register) sax appeal. Mr Thomas Alexander (percussion) and Colin Harris (bass guitar) completed this indefatigable quintet, source of a great deal of the energy and sparkle all through the production. Special congratulations to all five players.



As ever, the "backroom boys and girls" made a sterling contribution. Forty-five dramatis personae had to be made up by Miss Priddle, Dr Keable and their team of girls, and Ms Tandon (Front of House and Ticket Sales) broke all records by selling out every seat for the entire three-night run four days before the first performance!

But of course, as in any production, the highest accolade must go to the producers, Miss De Vince and Mr Greenall. To quote Vince Fontaine's eulogy of Miss Lynch: "IS SHE TERRIFIC, KIDS?" These producers sure did "a really, really terrific job here", one that will long be remembered.

G J Turner

HOUSE PLAY FESTIVAL 1994

Adjudicator: Miss Marie Green, Head of English at Withington Girls' School, teacher here 1977-1984.

ADJUDICATOR'S REPORT

To observe that schools seem to be busier places with each academic year risks both being a truism and a cliché. However obvious, it is indeed "a truth universally acknowledged" that the demands on teachers, administrators all involved in education are many, various and increasing. In such a climate, events such as the House Drama Competition become difficult to stage. Added to this, the 1994 participants had a very short half-term to prepare properties, programmes and all the other extras. It is a tribute to all concerned that the School generates the kind of enthusiasm that saw fifty-eight pupils take the stage (many in a public examination year), and an equally large number involved in production or back-stage work. That they achieved the overall standard they did is remarkable and deserves warm congratulations.

Watching the plays was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, assessing them competitively was much less so. For reasons outlined in the individual house reports I found no difficulty in choosing the overall winner but best actor and best actress awards were decided after much deliberation, and the second to fifth placings reflect only minor gradations.

The results of the 1994 competition are as follows:-

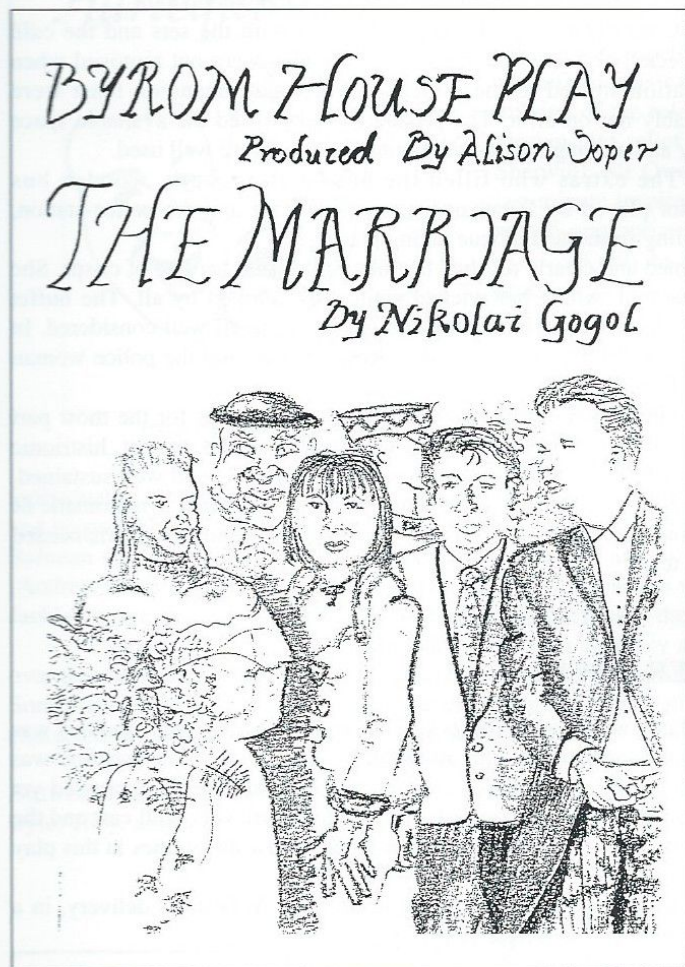
- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| 1st | Byrom |
| 2nd | Whitworth |
| 3rd | Fraser |
| | Gaskell |
| 5th | Dalton |
| Best Actor: | James White (Fraser) |
| Best Actress: | Laura Owen (Whitworth) |

With particular commendations to those who were also considered and came very close to these awards: Alex Rodgers, Robert Clyne, James Taylors, Michelle Cowan and Claire Reichl.

The plays were enhanced by the expert use of make-up, uniformly well done, and by the proficient lighting and sound effects. Michael Bartlett and Kit Brown did a thoroughly accomplished professional job which contributed substantially to the effectiveness of each of these productions.

BYROM HOUSE

When, two weeks before the competition, the various scripts arrived on my desk, I have to confess that my heart sank when Gogol's "The Marriage" figured amongst them. Having seen several "Government Inspectors" on several school stages produced by adults with considerable expertise and watched them fall prey to the abundant pitfalls translations of Gogol invite, I was fearful before Byrom's young producers in their efforts to deal with this piece.



It is with delight that I can now report my fears to have been wholly unfounded. From the charming introduction onwards this was a most accomplished presentation. The set was impressive and even period detail had been addressed. The confidence and ease with which the cast got their tongues around the Russian names - you try saying Podkolyossin, Anutchkin and Kotchkarev quickly - was a measure of the assuredness and sophistication which marked the entire production.

Gogol's play is wordy and at times subtle; the exchanges are lengthy; the plot relies on clear exposition and measured delivery. Byrom's strong cast made the words and characters come alive: the actions had pace and energy; the movement was natural and varied.

Podkolyossin (Alex Rodgers) lounged elegantly at the start and conveyed just the right mixture of pomposity and insecurity for this part. His maidservant, Libby Gilmore, was suitably deferential and proper - her lines were spoken lucidly and intelligently. With the arrival on stage of Madam Fyokla (Michelle Cowan) and Kotchkarev (Robert Clyne), an already impressed audience was now riveted. These two commanded our attention and each was possessed of a striking stage presence. Pace, tension, humour, pathos were all successfully injected into the very difficult opening scene. Perhaps Madam Fyokla's hairstyle could have been more in keeping with her supposed age, and perhaps Kotchkarev needed a little more variation in volume so that he could build to a later climax, but these are minor quibbles when so much was excellent.

Agafya (Carrie Litherland) and Arina (Jenny Ellis) looked wonderful. Here hairstyles,

props and costumes all helped us to suspend our disbelief and to identify fully with the characters on stage. Arina's small role was played to perfection in every detail. Agafya was at all times in control and immersed in her part. Although her audibility was strained on some occasions, she excelled in the theatrical shrieks the role required at regular intervals. The ladies were ably attend by Dunyashka, aptly portrayed by Helen Ralston.

To find a play which allows one to use the available talent to maximum effect is surely one secret of dramatic success. "The Marriage" seemed to have been tailor-made for each of the four suitors seeking Miss Agafya's hand. David Hufton WAS Mr Omelet - the lines spoken about him described him perfectly. His strong voice, excellent costume, well-planned movements around the stage amounted to a fine portrayal of amiable bonhomie. Not one of the suitors weakened the effect. Each was strongly characterised and well sustained. David Johnson's Anutchkin was the epitome of the mild mannered rather affected male. As Zevakin, Andrew Nunnery was rather ridiculously pompous and militaristic throughout.

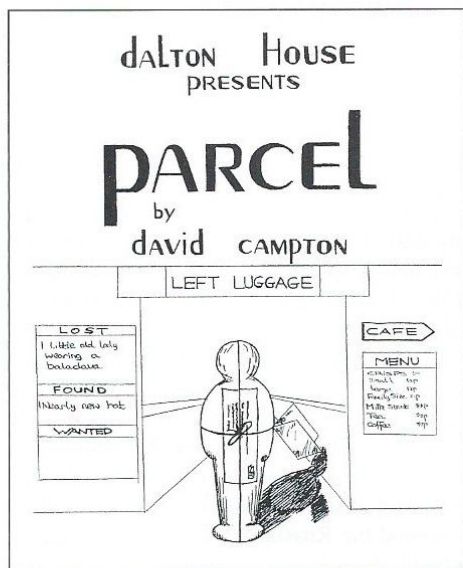
In those scenes where all were on stage the cast were skilfully orchestrated so as to focus the audience's attention exactly where it was needed. The action was given a lively sense of urgency, yet dramatic pauses were used to good effect.

As the play neared its climax, Agafya and Podkolyossin communicated their mutual embarrassment brilliantly in their courtship scene and Kotchkarev's deliberate quarrel with Podkolyossin was superbly realised. The latter's defenestration was spectacular and the soliloquy which preceded it was eloquently performed.

With their courtly bows and their Russian embraces, this cast transported us to nineteenth century St Petersburg and delighted us during our brief stay there. Well done to all involved.

DALTON HOUSE

In "The Parcel" by David Campton, Dalton made an interesting and potentially excellent choice of play. The script allowed wide scope for ingenuity and improvisation whilst not being over-ambitious in its demands.



From the moment she appeared Debbie Segal dominated the stage with her flamboyant portrayal of Rose. Make-up, costume, accent, pitch of voice, all contributed to the creation of a strong comic character. She brought assurance and understanding to the part; qualities which were sometimes lacking in her supporting cast. The idea, central to the play's message, that Grandma is "just like a parcel" and treated as such by her relatives, was not conveyed with sufficient clarity. Several missed cues meant that vital parts of the text were omitted. The role of Amelia was rather under-played by Jennie Green. She needed a costume suggesting middle-age rather than youth, and she needed to match Rose's bossiness.

The powerfully unpleasant Rose was complemented by the decidedly likeable Arthur, her husband. Jon Howarth's confidence in this role grew as the play developed. His delivery of lines acquired clarity and he showed good comic timing, particularly in the second half.

Considerable efforts had been made with the sets and the café was especially effective. It was a pity the signs were not removed when the location shifted to the police-station where beans on toast were presumably not on offer. The producers had utilised the available space cleverly and although props were minimal, they were well used.

The extras who filled the bus (with its aptly wooden bus conductor played by Jonathan Flatman), the café and the police-station,

were well directed and they mimed skilfully without distracting from the dialogue taking place.

Grandma (Jennifer Garside) was wonderfully costumed and clearly relished her silent role - and her bag of crisps. She made excellent use of facial expression, particularly at the end, where her wicked smile was enjoyed by all. The buffet woman (Geraldine Brook) gave a pleasing performance in which stance, intonation and gesture were all well considered. In the police-station scene, there were some very funny lines, but the exchanges between Rose, Arthur, and the police woman (Viki Goodall) had much more comic potential than was realised.

Overall, it was clear that the learning of lines, the sine qua non for any dramatic performer, was for the most part insecure, and this impeded the fluency and effectiveness of the whole. The bluff, laconic Arthur and the strident, histrionic Rose were in delightful contrast. Debbie Segal is a natural, whose use of telling gesture was memorable and well sustained. She rescued several scenes from the chaos which threatened. The raggedness of the curtain call was perhaps symptomatic of the cast's lack of conviction. The curate's egg springs to mind in recalling Dalton's production. Commendable efforts needed to be reinforced by a more consistent ability of the cast as a team.

FRASER HOUSE

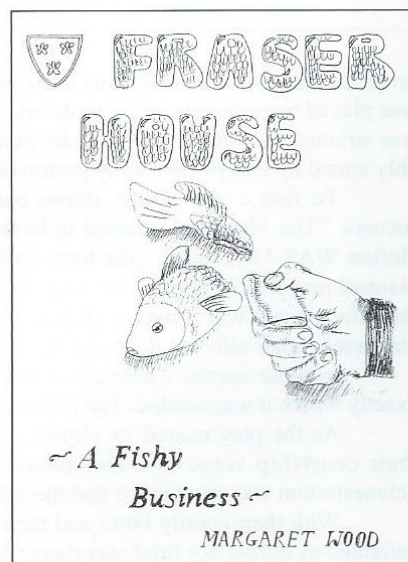
"A Fishy Business" by Margaret Wood is a classic farce which relies for its success on excellent timing - and this was supplied for the most part by a strong Fraser cast. From the curtain rise, the attention to detail in set and costume was impressive. Mary's opening lines, delivered off-stage, were beautifully audible, and George's portrayal as an oppressed yet indifferent husband was instantly convincing. Mary (Rebecca Baron) and George (James White) were very well cast and the repartee in which they engaged throughout was always entertaining. There were some excellent throw-away lines in this play and these two characters always made the most of them.

Mark Knowles made a splendid vicar and brought to the part a shrewd comic awareness. At best his delivery, in a rich, brown voice, was impressive but occasionally his lines were inaudible. The vicar's wife (Debra Nussbaum) was always alert, clear and confident. As Emmeline Wagstaff, Maame Ankrah performed with gusto to say the least. Her extravagant gestures and hyperbolic body language were both apt and amusing. If only she had delivered her lines at a speed that allowed them to be understood this would have been an excellent performance. Manish Das successfully captured the fanaticism and boorishness of Uncle Richard and his mime fishing, conducted on the apron stage, was one of the play's highlights.

Nigel (Paul Bagnall) and Felicity (Sally Ward) were authentically clad in Sixties hippy gear and made a delightful contrast to the older generation. They were an hilarious couple and won our hearts with their attempt at dancing. George, peering through Felicity's curtain of hair to ask, "Who's that in there then?" provoked shrieks of delight from the audience.

As in all good farce, the confusions mounted in this one, and the near-hysteria of the climax could easily have degenerated into disarray. The creation of controlled chaos was a challenge which this producer and her cast met admirably. Andrew Lole's appearance as a female nurse threatened to steal the show: his one falsetto line was faultlessly delivered.

Not only do lines have to be delivered sharply on cue in a play of this kind, but entrances and exits require a timing of Torville and Dean precision.



Fraser's cast were uniformly efficient in effecting appearances and disappearances. Some unusual props were called for, and considerable organisational skills were needed to present them. The stage business was well directed, especially George's use of the sherry decanter which led to his convincing climactic collapse.

Overall this was an entertaining performance which deserved more than the embarrassed curtain-call the cast allowed themselves. Sally Ward and Manish Das showed real promise and maturity in their production/direction.

WHITWORTH HOUSE

A clear, well-planned introduction prefaced the staging of Terence Rattigan's "harlequinade" by Whitworth House. The set was quite simple yet showed ingenuity, and the opening lines, including Juliet's "melodious sighs", were delivered with considerable style, even panache. Julie (aka Edna) was played by Laura Owen, to James Taylor's Romeo (or Arthur Gosport). To act the part of an actor, especially a bad one, requires a sophistication which could defeat many older and more

experienced hands than these two. Yet they managed beautifully to effect changes of voice and manner, suitable to their play-within-a-play roles. The audience felt comfortable, confident that they were in control and this allowed us to sit back and enjoy ourselves.

Casting was often excellent here. The unassuming, unobtrusive Johnny was superbly played by Simon Waind and Michael Birtwistle's Jack Wakefield was extremely well sustained. Undoubtedly it was Nic Owen's milking of the role of 1st Halberdier that amused the audience most. He was thrown into relief by his supporting straight man, the 2nd Halberdier (Ian Sherwin). Mr Owen's exaggeratedly effeminate portrayal was, apparently, a last minute inspiration. Nic clearly enjoyed himself and his sense of fun was wholly appropriate to the mood of the play.

If only by virtue of its length, this was an ambitious undertaking. The producer is to be complimented on his skilful editing and adapting of the text and his effective staging of a complex plot.

Some of the supporting roles in this production may well have been assisted by a more imaginative approach to costumes and accessories. The nature of his part required George (Jon Gordon) to look (and behave) much older. His clear, strong voice lacked content in which to be effective. Similarly Muriel (Paula Caplan) needed a costume which might lend some

individuality to the part. Edna referred caustically to Joyce's "little costume", but Caroline Shaw as Joyce was in fact warmly and respectably clad. By contrast, Miss Fishlock (Alex Preston) was every inch the doting yet efficient secretary. Tanveer Rahman cut an impressive figure as the theatre manager and brought a quiet dignity to the proceedings. Muriel and Tom (Andrew Farrell) made a superb entry with the baby, and Joyce won the audience's sympathy in her long suffering role as Jack's fiancée. Jeremy Sallon both looked and sounded right as the policeman; his flat delivery suited the role admirably.

Everyone delivered the well written script with accuracy and all were impressively audible, except when they talked over the audience's laughter. The producer appeared as the duellist, Fred Ingram, and the fight itself was well choreographed. Someone had briefed this cast well on the importance of acting all the time, even when not speaking, and everyone sustained characterisation at all times. The tomb was well used, as was the all-important balcony and the crucial "mound".

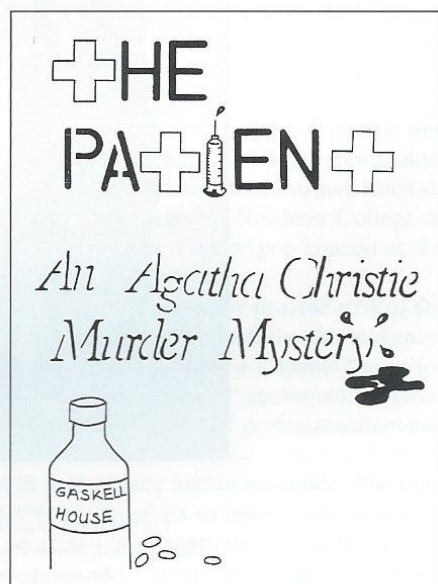
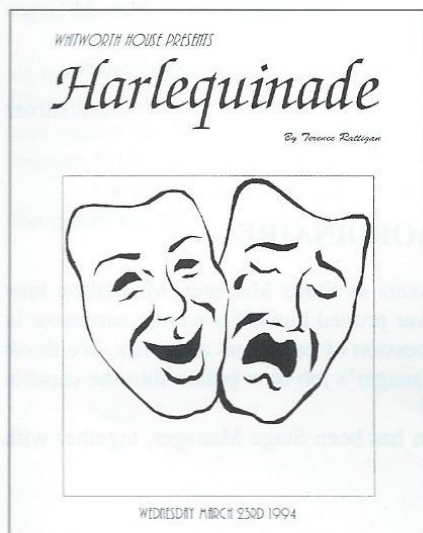
There was a good pace to this production and chief credit for this must go to those in the leading roles; to Michael Birtwistle, James Taylor and Laura Owen. Between these three there were a series of effective contrasts of character and style. They, amply supported, achieved and polished performance of a highly demanding text.

GASKELL HOUSE

Gaskell's set was by far the most ambitious and was very well realised. "The Patient" by Agatha Christie demanded considerable skill in its staging, as well as ingenuity to meet its technical requirements. The props were excellent throughout this production and deserve special commendation.

Equally pleasing was attention to detail in the wardrobe department which ensured that everyone in Gaskell's cast looked the part. Costume certainly aided characterisation here. Martin Cheung as the Doctor and Adeyinka Molajo as the Inspector had very demanding roles. Both had an appropriate air of authority and exuded professional competence. They performed well, though each lacked clarity on some occasions. Lansen (Michael Scholes) carried out his part with appropriate scientific efficiency. The Nurse (Sarah Sheldon) performed with total conviction and admirable clarity.

The arrival of the main suspects, William Ross (James Brocklehurst), Emmeline Ross (Claire Reichl), Byran Wingfield (Stephen Neary) and Brenda Jackson (Philippa Whittle) was well anticipated, and they did not disappoint us. Brenda's main contribution lay in the flaunting of her physical assets: she did this generously. The growing hostility



between Ross and Wingfield was conveyed comically and convincingly, continuing even beyond the curtain-call. Stephen Neary was most adept at portraying the rather unlikely aggressor and still more unlikely Cassanova figure. James Brocklehurst was an effective foil to him. Amongst this group, Claire Reichl's performance was outstanding. She played Emmeline with every tool at the actress's disposal - even down to her use of her well-chosen handbag. Claire sustained the character even when in the background of the stage activity, and when she was highlighted she rose to the occasion magnificently. Her "How dare you!" bellowed to Brenda was worthy of a Lady Bracknell and Claire seemed to grow to twice her size as her bosom swelled with rage.

The patient (Sophia Crilly) made her first appearance on a full size hospital trolley completed with moving parts. The ensuing experiment was entertaining to watch, although the patient was a most disconcertingly healthy-looking invalid!

Great fun was had by cast and audience alike in this production. Unfortunately, its conclusion did not quite match its initial promise. In part this is due to the play itself, but to some extent the cast did not rise to the problems of the dénouement. A few missed cues seemed to unsettle the actors and some vital lines were lost. The final unmasking of the villain, Nurse Bond, came somewhat anti-climactically, leaving the audience slightly unsatisfied.

Overall there was much to commend and the producers should feel well pleased with themselves and their cast.

Miss M Green

We should like to thank Miss Green most warmly for her countless hours of work on this splendid adjudication.

G J Turner

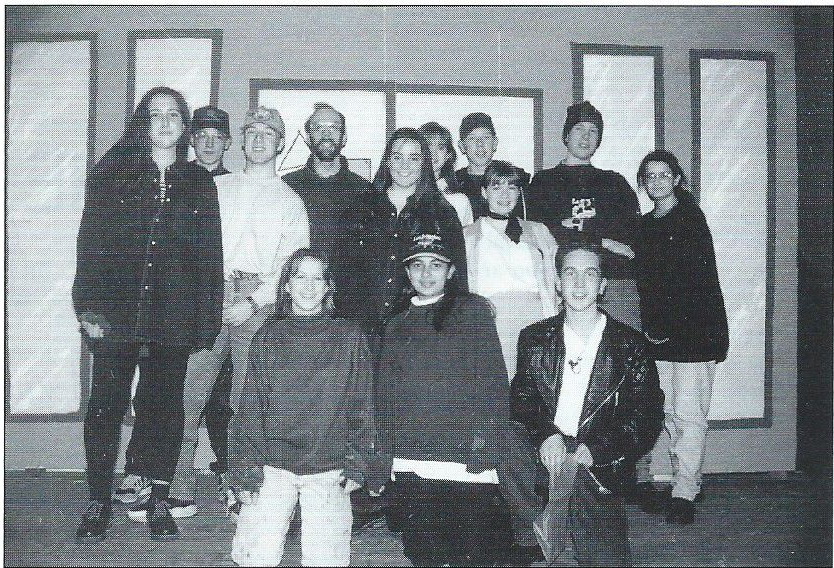
MR HOFTON – STAGE MANAGER EXTRAORDINAIRE

When, in 1986, Mr Grant ended sixteen dedicated and highly successful years as Stage Manager, Mr Hofton may well have felt daunted at the prospect of following in such footsteps. He has however proved himself a worthy successor in every way, bringing on his team of students and working harmoniously with a succession of producers and casts. We thank Mr Hofton for all his fine service back stage over the last eight years; the Stage Manager's job now passes into the capable hands of Mr Austen.

For the record, here is a list of the twelve productions for which Mr Hofton has been Stage Manager, together with their producers.

- 1986 "Forty Years on" Mr Callaghan
- 1987 "The Curse of the Werewolf" Mr Callaghan
- 1988 "The Importance of Being Earnest" Mrs Treweek
"The Golden Masque of Agamemnon" Mr Callaghan
- 1989 "The Silver Sword" Mr Turner
"Oliver" Mrs Parsons & Miss De Vince
- 1990 "The Fosdyke Saga" Mr Callaghan
- 1991 "Toad of Toad Hall" Miss De Vince & Miss Priddle
"The Crucible" Mr Briggs & Mr Lord
- 1992 "Macbeth" Mr Lord and Miss Priddle
- 1993 "Smike" Miss De Vince
- 1994 "Grease" Miss De Vince and Mr Greenall

Editor



Mr Hofton's Stage Staff, 1993-4.
Left to right, standing: Katherine Arran, Adam Clegg, Chris Dixon, Mr. Hofton, Sally Ward, Sarah Porter, Simon Whittingham, Sam Waite, Nick Owen, Anisa Gilani.
Seated: Jennifer Colclough, Vinnie Pohoomull, Hadley Alexander.

OTW IN GERMANY

Although not a School event, this merits inclusion. – Ed.

I am a member of Oldham Theatre Workshop, and have been for four years. (Oldham Theatre Workshop is sponsored and aided by the Oldham Education Authority). Last year they were invited to perform a play at the “Stuttgart International Theatre Festival”. I was auditioned for the part of Johnny and, being successful, was invited to go with the group to Germany to perform in their adaptation of William Golding’s “Lord of the Flies”.

The story is about a group of children whose plane crashes on a deserted island. They have to learn to fend for themselves and discover their inner qualities and shortcomings through this traumatic and sometimes tragic period of their lives.

We met up at Chorlton Street Bus Depot to make a seven hour journey to Heathrow Airport, London, where we caught a plane to Stuttgart International Airport. Once in the airport, we were told to wait for our guide, Axel, who then took us to the Junehaus (our so-called HQ). Then we were allocated to various families, who were involved with the festival.

On numerous occasions, we watched other countries perform their plays. Some of the performances were humorous and some were artistic; our performance was deep with inner meaning. A lot of the performances were very good and interesting. After the day’s work, we had discos at the Junehaus which helped us to relax after our various dramas during the day.

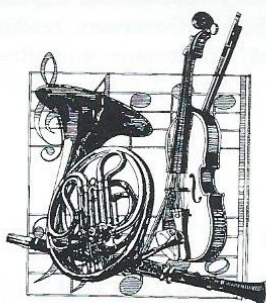
On the second to last night, the winners were announced. We were all very excited; the tension was running very high as everyone made every effort to do their best. The results were then announced. The winners of the Stuttgart International Theatre Festival are: GREAT BRITAIN’S “Lord of the Flies”, performed by Oldham Theatre Workshop. I was voted to go and receive the prize money (because I was the youngest of the group) of DM 500 (approximately £250.00). All the proceeds went to OTW funds to continue their excellent work in the theatre.

I was so proud to be part of the team representing OTW and Great Britain. I will never forget the experience for the rest of my life!

Anthony Hart (2D)

* * *

MUSIC



GENERAL OVERVIEW 1994

Since I joined the staff of William Hulme’s, each year has brought an increasingly busier musical calendar and 1994 has been no exception. We have been in the envious position of having to turn down offers of concert appearance. Musical performances have ranged from major concerts involving over two hundred performers to Informal Recitals which have catered for just a handful of students. Venues have been equally diverse from the Royal Northern College of Music to Northenden Parish Church; this coming November will even see pupils taking part in a major pop concert at the Apollo, Manchester.

Unquestionably, concert performances are one of the main *raison d’être* for musicians, since they provide a focus for rehearsals and are in themselves an exciting and fulfilling experience both for the performers and, hopefully, the audience. Whilst school ensembles are primarily organised for the educational benefit of pupils, they also provide a valuable forum for the school, showing off the talents of pupils to the public at large and not just to home-grown ‘friendly’ audiences. Without exception, our pupils have performed to a high standard in all concerts. They have shown a great deal of professionalism and brought great credit on themselves and the School.

Of course, for each performance, several weeks of practice are required both individually and in ensemble. The time commitment required for rehearsals is substantial and can be hard to endure when school life offers so many other appealing distractions. Despite these factors, it is to their credit that pupils manage to attend rehearsals with commendable regularity. It is generally only as adults that we realise the value of playing or singing in a group. At Parents’ Evenings, instead of

discussing their child's progress, parents all too frequently rue their decision not to have taken up an instrument or to have continued with lessons when younger. Finally, therefore, a couple of messages:

To parents – All children have to be coerced into practising at some stage. A few tears now are well worth the effort in the long run.

To pupils – take full advantage of whatever opportunities are afforded to you at school.

My thanks go to Mr Goodwin and all members of the music department and to the increasing number of staff from other departments for their untiring efforts and support in ensuring that music making at WHGS is such a success.

Whilst it has not been possible to include articles on all the concerts and other appearances of our musicians, the reports below are witness to the diversity and quality of the music making which has gone on over the past academic year.

P Dewhurst

CHRISTMAS 1993

As always, the "Christmas Celebration" in the Upper Hall on Monday, 12 December, was a happy blend, not only of the sacred and the secular, but also of School Choir and audience carols, orchestral and ensemble items, and seasonal readings.

The Choir gave a selection from the David Willcocks "Carols for Choirs" books, this year the Czech "Zither Carol", which went with a real dzing, the "Coventry Carol" and "Deck the Hall" (wot no John Rutter?!), as well as two interesting settings, Coombes "All in the Morning" and the spiritual "Mary had a Baby"; it also backed up the Orchestra in Lewie's rumbustuous "Stop the Cavalry", arranged by our own Mr Goodwin. The Orchestra sparkled seasonably in "Ski Sunday", "Kalinka" and the closing "Merry Christmas Everybody", and our Band separated into its constituent parts for "Circus March" and "Santa Claus is coming to Town" (Brass), two movements from Elgar's Six Pieces (Strings), and our Jazz Band's "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy", which is certainly not a description of the audience's comments after it! It was good to hear the Junior Band coming on nicely with its "Walking on the Air". Two lovely chamber interludes were provided by the Viol Group's "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming" (Praetorius - alias "A great and mighty wonder"/"Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen") and the Flute Quartet (Neil Matthews, Laura Smith, Sahara Dixon and Rachel Westbrook) with Tchaikovsky's "Tanz der Rohrpfaffen" ("Dance of the Reed Pipes").

As well as five readings, we had a delightful performance by Miss De Vince's Junior Drama Club of its intriguingly titled, self-written playette "Out with the new, in with the old". The bright freshness of this performance was in perfect harmony with the evening as a whole.

Two days later we were all at St Werburgh's Church, Chorlton, for the now annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, following the pattern of King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve. In addition to its sacred repertoire from the "Christmas Celebration", the Choir also sang "The Lord at first did Adam make" (English trad), "Gabriel to Mary came" (medieval, arr Willcocks), and (*pace* our twenty-two lady colleagues) "Masters in this Hall" (French trad arr Willcocks). The lessons were read by a representative from each year group, with Mr Loveland for the Wise Men and Canon Roland Seaman, Parish Priest of St Werburgh's and one of our School Governors, reading the moving and summative Last Gospel, the Joannine Prologue "In the beginning was the Word". An evening of uplifting spiritual and musical nourishment, never stuffy or heavy, but a perfect foil to the bouncy exuberance of the "Christmas Celebration".

G J Turner

THE TWO LENT TERM CONCERTS

On Tuesday, February 15th, the School Band, under Mr Goodwin, gave a lively and varied concert in the Upper Hall. As well as items from the whole band ranging from the French 17th century court composer Charpentier via Sousa and Lennon/McCartney to well-known TV themes, we had a wide spectrum of numbers from the Jazz Group (Directors Mr A Wilson and Mr D Bradford) and the Junior Band (Director Miss F Bryson). It would be invidious to single out individual performances but Geoffrey Barraclough (sax) and Sam Sallon (trumpet) had prominence in "Curtain Call Blues" and "Metal Merchant", Geoffrey was joined by Debbie Mosley (alto sax) in "Everything I do, I do it for you", the entire nine strong Clarinet Section were in the spotlight for an arrangement of a movement from Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, and Elisabeth Keable (clarinet) with Sarah Porter (flute) etherealised beautifully the "Pie Jesu" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem" in an arrangement by Mr Goodwin. Congratulations to Mr Goodwin, his colleagues and all the players.

In the "Spring Term Concert" on 22 March our instrumentalists broadened their repertoire still further. The Orchestra, in addition to a Sousa march and French traditional Shepherd's Song, performed an arrangement by Clare Grundman of three English traditional songs, the Brass and Jazz Groups gave us some lively popular pieces and Miss Bryson's Junior Band brought off well the "Muppet Show Theme". The Recorder Group came up with three beautiful Tudor pieces, and the Staff Group with Chuck Rio's "Tequila" (not a reflection on teachers' drinking habits!). The School Choir sang with light and clear delicacy two spirituals arranged by Sargent, and we had three delightful solo items. Debbie Moseley (sax) played her own piece, "Pentatonic Pastime", Colin Harris showed us in his rendition of a movement from Hindemith's Tuba Sonata that there is far more to tubas than soulless "um-pah-pahs", and Christopher Heys transported us in Chopin's Piano Prelude in D flat Op. 29 No 15.

The second half of the Spring Term Concert was very different. The entire 188 strong First Year sang Steve Pogson's Cantata for Young Voices, "Persephone", in seven movements, each one announced *parlando* by a different pupil. Clearly a

tour de force of Cecil B de Mille proportions, and one which succeeded, not only in involving a whole year group (or should we say "cohort" nowadays?!) in music making which was manifestly fun, but also in delighting a packed house. Congratulations as ever to Mr Dewhurst for his still undimmed vision, his energy and his successful championship of music for all. And well done too the First Formers!

G J Turner

HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

I am always pleasantly surprised by the breadth of talent which emerges each year for the House Music Competition and this year was no exception. There are nearly always one or two proficient instrumentalists or singers who have kept their musical talents hidden. Clearly, some Houses do have an advantage over others because, by luck, there is an abundance of musicians in a particular House in that year. However, the number of musicians is not necessarily an indication of the winning house, since that relies as much on organisation and preparation. As well as a mark for each performance, Houses are awarded marks for the balance and musical content of their 25 minute programme - it is this mark which usually decides the final result. This year's adjudicator was Mr John Davenport, Director of Music at Bolton School Girls' Division. His verbal adjudications were much enjoyed and appreciated, not just because of the useful advice they contained, but because of his lively and enthusiastic delivery. His written adjudications were full of praise and constructive criticism for each of the performers. The final results were:-

Fraser	1st
Byrom	2nd
Whitworth	3rd
Dalton	4th
Heywood	5th
Gaskell	6th

P Dewhurst

JUNIOR SCHOOL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Unlike the House Music Competition, the Junior School Music Festival is not competitive. Its main aim is to give pupils the chance to perform and benefit from the advice and constructive criticism of an independent professional musician. Individual marks are therefore not awarded, however, entrants do receive a written adjudication sheet and can be awarded a certificate of commendation if the adjudicator thinks the performance was particularly good.

A late cancellation by the original adjudicator meant that this year's Festival was judged by Mr Goodwin and myself. There were nearly fifty individual entrants and despite the lack of experience in public performance from some, all the performers acquitted themselves well.

It is hoped that in future years the Festival can be expanded to include many more ensemble entries so that every member of the Junior School is involved.

P Dewhurst

INFORMAL RECITALS

The termly Informal Recitals provide an opportunity for pupils to perform in a less intimidating setting than the main School Concerts. The audience is deliberately small and consists of parents and friends. The Concerts are approximately an hour in length and there is time afterwards for parents to meet and chat with other parents and some members of the instrumental teaching staff. The musical experience of those performing varies considerably from beginners to those on the higher ABRSM grades. As in previous years, all pupils performed well and demonstrated a mature and professional approach to a concert situation.

P Dewhurst

SUMMER CONCERT 1994

The evening, this year, consisted of two distinct halves, beginning with an instrumental entertainment of mainly popular modern music. The Concert Band began proceedings with a punchy arrangement of the Sinatra classic "New York, New York", in a melodious version of the Sixties, and latterly Phil Collins' hit, "Groovy Kinda Love". They later closed the first half with another dramatic and racey piece "The Final Countdown". The Band seems to be growing into a large capable unit, which works well together to produce a full and precise sound under the guidance of Mr Goodwin.

The Junior Band, composed of first and second year woodwind and brass instrumentalists, managed to cope well with some difficult rhythms and changes in "Hava Nagaila" and Bernstein's "America". With this young talent the future of music in the school would seem to be secure. This theme of demanding rhythms was repeated in the Clarinet Trio's "Mixed Bag Boogy", The Jazz Group's "Fast Break", and the calypso beat in the arrangement of "Mango Walk to Linstead Market" performed by the Brass Group.

A contrast in styles was provided by the Recorder Group's performance of Handel's "March in D" which featured the differing tones of the descant, treble and tenor recorders, played with precision and finesse. A further example of the virtuosity of the performers could be heard in Telemann's beautiful viola solo. This requires a balance of rapid fingering and sensitive interpretation which was achieved with great accomplishment by Peter Kidd, providing a highlight of the first half.

The great success of Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Fauré's "Requiem" in the previous two years meant that the Choral Society, comprising School Choir members, Masters and Mistresses, Parents, Old Hulmeians, spouses and friends and relatives of all categories of members, had a very high standard to try to maintain. Haydn's "Imperial Mass" is a longer and more difficult piece for amateurs to master than the Choral Society's previous pieces. It makes unrelenting demands on concentration and vocal chords, and was universally thought to be tough to sing, requiring a precision which many of the enthusiastic amateurs found difficult to achieve until the very night of the performance. By then, any musical insecurity seemed to vanish as the atmosphere of the occasion, and the quality of the orchestra and soloists, seemed to lift the whole of the Choir to perform the piece better than they had ever done before. The Choir was accompanied by members of the Sale Chamber Orchestra and other welcome guest musicians, and led by four outstanding soloists. Ailsa Mooney, stunned everybody with her striking soprano voice in the open "Kyrie Eleison", and the Mezzo Soprano Johanna Byrne, tenor Andrew Reece and baritone Steven Williams continued to transport the audience, combining well to produce a beautiful overall sound, especially in the "Agnus Dei" when the Choir were allowed to sit and enjoy their wonderful professional quality, along with the rest of the audience.

The Choral performance appeared to be as well-appreciated as the first half of the Concert, and the talented soloists and inspiration of the maestro Mr P Dewhurst were rewarded with sustained applause at the end. The contrasting halves of the Concert seemed to complement each other well to produce yet another really enjoyable evening for audience and performers alike - a tribute to the hard work of all the various members of the Music Department.

Joanna Shaw (2B)

CELEBRITY RECITAL – MARTIN ROSCOE

Following last year's successes with Michala Petri and the John Foster Black Dyke Mills Band, Mr Dewhurst continued the series of the Celebrity Recitals by securing a concert by the world-famous concert pianist Martin Roscoe on Wednesday 2 March.

Mr Roscoe's recital in the New Hall inaugurated the School's new Yamaha concert grand piano, generously donated by the Parents' Association.

The evening was predictably a delight for all who came. The Programme Notes and sequence of works played are printed below:-

Martin Roscoe is one of the busiest and most versatile concert pianists in Britain. Regularly invited to perform with most of the major orchestras in the UK, he has particularly close association with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra with whom he has given over sixty concerts. His 1992/93 season included performances with the Ulster Orchestra, the Hallé, the BBC Philharmonic, Manchester Camerata, The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, Bournemouth Sinfonietta and with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales at the 1993 BBC Proms. He has also performed abroad in Europe, South America, Australia, Cuba, Singapore and Hong Kong. He returns to perform again with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra later this year with the Hong Kong Philharmonic in 1995.

He has worked with many leading conductors including Christopher von Dohnanyi, Libor Pesek, Simon Rattle, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Yuri Temirkanov, Andrew Litton, Richard Hickox and Kent Nagano. As a conductor and director himself, he works with various chamber orchestras. In addition, Martin Roscoe is the Director of the Blackburn International Piano Week and of the Beverley Chamber Music Festival.

Having given over two hundred and fifty broadcasts as recitalist, chamber musician and concerto soloists, Martin Roscoe is one of the most frequently heard pianists on BBC Radio 3. Highlights have included a complete Schubert sonata cycle and three Henry Wood Promenade concerts in recent years. During 1993/94, Martin Roscoe will be recording six new discs on two major record labels.

Martin Roscoe has played at the Bath, Cheltenham, King's Lynn, Rydale, Harrogate, Lichfield, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Three Choirs Festivals. He is regularly invited to play chamber music with other leading performers including Tasmin Little, Emma Johnson, Alexander Baille, the Endellion Quarter, Moray Welsh and Peter Donohoe, with whom he has an outstanding piano duo. He is also a member of the Bell'Arte Ensemble, which presents its third annual series of chamber concerts at Symphony Hall, Birmingham in the 1993/94 season.

Martin Roscoe has a large and varied repertoire, having performed over seventy concertos, and is equally admired for his rare musicianship in the classical and romantic repertoire and his flawless technical assurance in the most challenging of modern works.

PROGRAMME

Schumann: Kinderszenen Op.15
Beethoven: Sonata in F minor Op.37
"Appassionata"
1. Allegro assai
2. Andante
3. Allegro Ma Non Troppo

INTERVAL

Debussy: Estampes
1. Pagodes
2. Soirée dans Grenade
3. Jardins sous la Pluie
Chopin: Scherzo No 1 in B minor Op.20
Nocturne in C minor Op. 48 No 1
Liszt: Spanish Rhapsody

QUINTESSENTIAL BRASS

This is a professional group of five distinguished freelance Brass players, who have all made a notable career with their instruments and who came together in 1992 to form this wittily-named group. They very generously gave their services free in their concert here on Wednesday 8 June, so that proceeds could go to support the WHGS Concert Band Tour of Belgium in September (to be reviewed in next year's "Hulmeian"!)

The five members of the ensemble are:

Gavin Reid (trumpet)
David Chatterton (trumpet)
Sue Baxendale (horn)
Barry Daykin (trombone)
Philip Goodwin (tuba)

Their varied and delightful programme is set out below:-

Rondeau - Mouret
Rule Britannia - Hartmann arr Reid
Fancies, Toyes and Dreames - Farnaby arr Howarth
Fugue in G minor (The Little) - J S Bach arr Romm
First Movement from Brass Quintet - Arnold
Music from the Royal Fireworks - Handel arr Roberts

INTERVAL

Old Comrades - Teike arr Daykin
Introduction and Allegro Spirituoso - Senaille arr Daykin
Music Hall Suite - Horovitz
A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square - Marschvitz/Sherwin arr Roberts
Puttin' on the Ritz - Berlin arr Roberts

* * *

HOUSE NOTES

BYROM HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Joint Heads of House: Alex Rodgers and Mark Shelmerdine

House Prefects: Hadley Alexander, Chris Bell, Chris Dixon, Andy Fry, Nick Hann, James Hickman, Chris Hodge, Julian Hope, Jonathan Lamb, Matthew Musgrove, Gary Scora and Andy Willett.

Few Housemasters can have experienced my good fortune in having this year one of the best Upper Sixth groups ever in Byrom. Over the years these boys have supported everything the House has done. They have taken part in House plays, given one hundred per cent at sport and have come on House trips to London and the YHA fell-walking trips to the Lake District. It has been fun to be with them and I am very sorry to see them leave.

It was wonderful to receive a letter from Steve Green of Byrom, who left three years ago. Steve has spent the last two years at Iowa State University. He has run the mile in 3.59 and hopes to compete for Jamaica in the Commonwealth Games.* Hopefully, he will meet James Hickman of Byrom who will be swimming for Great Britain in the Games. We wish them both every success. A note on James Hickman's achievements appears elsewhere in the magazine.

The House league team played exciting and skilful rugby. In a game we lost to Gaskell, I witnessed some of the most skilful handling I have ever seen at House level. Hadley Alexander captained the team well and Julian Hope and he produced some enterprising switches in attack. We had a fast back line with Gary Scora on one wing and Anthony Mawson on the other. The backs were given a lot of good balls from our pack, where Chris Dixon, Jonathan Lamb, Nick Byrom, Chris Hodge, Andrew Nunney, Andy Fry and Andy Willett were outstanding.

We went out in the first round of the Senior Knock-out to a strong Dalton side. Our tackling was poor and we cracked at the end under constant pressure, losing 36 - 3. Alex Rodgers, Mark Shelmerdine and Julian Hope all had good games. Our Junior side also went out in the first round. T J Rashid scored a good try and Robert Seddon played well. James Lambert made numerous breaks, but then tended to hang on to the ball for too long. However, the general quality of our tackling was poor. We lost 28 - 5.

In the seven-a-side tournament our Seniors and Juniors played badly and suffered heavy defeats.

Our road relay team was somewhat weak and despite excellent runs from Chris Dixon, Andrew Nunney, Sophie Stephenson and Anna Bower in the third year, we came fifth.

At half-term, a party led by Mr Blight, Mr Addison and Miss Priddle went to Ambleside YHA. The party ranged from sixth form to a group of fourth years. The first day we climbed Sergeant Man, 2600ft via the Langdales and Mr Blight had grave reservations about the walking capabilities of some of the party. However, next day they all proved him wrong by climbing Helvellyn, 3,000ft via Striding Edge and Swirrel Edge. In the evening, there was an interesting change from Mr Blight's half-raw barbecued meat of the previous evening, as Carrie Litherland set fire to the spaghetti, which added a unique flavour to the meat and Bolognese sauce.

Byrom won the Inter-House Swimming competition which was organised by Olympic prospect James Hickman. Even without Hickman's brilliance, Byrom would have won. Outstanding performances were put in by Robert Moodie, Paul Beales and sisters Caroline and Gillian Alderson. It was good to have James Hickman free from national commitments at this time and able to swim in this competition this year and thus set the new School records to which he was entitled. We wish him every success in the Commonwealth Games and in his future swimming for Great Britain.

***Stop Press.** James Hickman's and also Steve Green's outstanding achievements in the Commonwealth Games, are recorded in "Notes and News". Ed.

LENT TERM

The House League lacrosse only lasted to half-term. Our team was lacking in basic skills and few passes were strung together and much "hockey" was played. Julian Hope captained the side well. Julian ran through the opposition times without number, but failed to score as he lacked finishing skills. We failed to win a match! In the Knock-outs we went out in the first round to Dalton. Well as Andy Fry performed for us in goal, he could not match the brilliance of John Hall of Dalton. Only Chris Bell showed penetration in attack and eventually we succumbed to the constant pressure and well as Jonathan Sills and Mark Shelmerdine played in defence, we lost in the end 15 - 6.

The Juniors had convincing victories over Whitworth and Fraser to reach the final. Byrom had a "dream start" as T J Rashid scored in 20 seconds. Then James Lambert went through the whole Gaskell defence, before sliding the ball under their goalkeeper. Byrom, however, relaxed and they came back with four goals before half-time and fatefully two in the final quarter. Robert Seddon had a very good angled shot, but it was too late and we lost 6 - 4 to the stronger side. Special mention must be made of Matthew Robinson, whose excellent goalkeeping kept us in the match.

This year Byrom won the Hewlett Cup six-a-side competition. The Seniors first team won two games and drew their final, but crucial was the contribution of the fourth team, who won all three games. The fourth year won their group with top scorers Nick Bell and Rob Seddon getting four goals each. Matthew Robinson was priceless in goal and Paul Beales and Michael Dodd played well in defence. James Lambert held the midfield together and made strong runs. T J Rashid, Jon Hodges and Preyesh Vara swapped around in attack. The fifth team won one and drew one of their games. Overall we got 19 points and beat our nearest rivals Dalton by 4 points.

Our Senior girls' netball team was outstanding. Sophie Stephenson dominated the midfield showing a tremendous speed and anticipation and here she got great support from the tenacious Jenny Ellis, who fought for every ball. The fast moving attack operated slickly and combined to the close range precision shooting of Alison Soper with the crucial long range finishing of Ellen Nicholson. Michelle Cowan, Elizabeth Gilmore and Martyne Jones all played well and no other House could really challenge the supremacy of this talented team. In the first round we defeated Fraser 18 - 4 and Heywood 12 - 6. In the finals, we beat Dalton 11 - 1 and Heywood 13 - 5 to win the competition.

The Juniors were weaker with only Vicky Fleming, Emma Weeden and Lauren Crane being strong players. We lost 3 - 1 to Dalton and 9 - 2 to Fraser. However, a much improved performance against Whitworth brought us a 4 - 4 draw and we shared fifth place. Natalie Rose, Joanne Zucker, Pritpal Badesha, Anna Bower and Leanne Connor played well in this revamped team.

The Senior Hockey team was a talented side, but we lost 1 - 0 to Dalton before going on to defeat Whitworth 4 - 0. The finals were unfortunately ruined by unavailability of players returning from the German exchange and illness. Nevertheless, Sophie Stephenson led a spirited side in a good game with Gaskell, which we just lost and we won the last match against Dalton.

The Juniors were again weak apart from Vicki Fleming, Emma Weeden and Lauren Crane and we failed to score a single goal. In the first round we drew 0 - 0 with Heywood and lost 0 - 3 to Fraser. We came last in sixth place.

At half-term, Mr Blight recovered from illness, and Mr Addison led a small party consisting of James Vickers, David Hufton, Richard Lamb, Andrew Nunney and Lauren Crane to the Lake District. We stayed at Grasmere YHA. On the Saturday, we climbed Helvellyn via Grisedale Tarn and Dolly Waggon Pike in snow and ice, in conditions more akin to Switzerland than England. The weather was gloriously sunny and the scenery impressive as only the Lakes and fells can be in snow. The party wanted to turn back on Dolly Waggon Pike, but Mr Blight insisted we go over the summit ridge. Conditions needed care, but were not unduly hazardous. The third year girl, Lauren Crane, showed extraordinary qualities in keeping up easily with fifth and sixth form pupils. The following day we did a less exhausting walk up to Easedale Tarn and Tarn Crag. Here we managed to lose Mr Blight, who insisted that as he was the leader, it was the party which got lost! Once again we enjoyed the most beautiful weather with sunshine and snow.

During Mr Blight's long absence, Alison Soper struggled to find a suitable House Play. However, as has happened before, the cast revolted against the chosen play and Mr Blight belatedly found a Russian comedy, "The Marriage" by Gogol. This was an incredibly difficult play and only a talented and dedicated cast managed to bring it off. We owe a great debt to Alex Rodgers, who, in his 'A' Level year volunteered to take the part of Mr Podkolyossin, which he played brilliantly. This was a very "democratic" production and Alison Soper was outstanding as a producer and was wise enough to let the cast have their say in the interpretation of their parts. She was ably assisted during absences by Michelle Cowan and Jenny Ellis. The extraordinary talent of Robert Clyne as the "Mr Knowall," Kotchikarev, carried the play with outstanding performances from Michelle Cowan, Carrie Litherland and Jenny Ellis. To see how Andrew Nunney, David Hufton and David Johnson learnt from others in the cast and developed their own interpretation of their parts from being fairly poor to become outstanding performers was a revelation. Elizabeth Gilmore and Helen Ralston played their minor roles very well.

In such a difficult term, the Byrom cast developed a teamwork which enabled them not only to win this year's competition, but to produce what I believe was the best House Play performance Byrom have ever done. A critique of the performance appears elsewhere in the magazine.

The Byrom entry for the House Music competition was well organised by Sarah Cope. We came second with a varied programme. Jonathan Lamb, Julian Hope and Andy Willett played an "Improvisation" in A minor on the guitar; Robert Clyne played the first movement of Beethoven's "Moonlight" Sonata on the piano; Sophie Stephenson, Geeta Rampal (violin) and Helen Ralston and Carrie Litherland (flute) played the Concerto in G (Telemann); Carrie Litherland played "La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin" on the flute; Eitam Amir performed "Andante" (Mozart) on the Cello; Mark Kelly played Traditional Irish Jigs on the Violin and Vicky Fleming played "Quintet" (Mozart).

MIDSUMMER TERM

The Seniors won the first round in the Cricket Knock-out. Gaskell scored 191 all out. The wickets were shared by Dipak Bhakta, Chris Bell and Carl Hope who all bowled well. Our late bowlers, however, gave away a lot of runs and Byrom faced a big total. Carl Hope scored a good 30 and then Iain Cooke scored a brilliant undefeated century. In this he was assisted by innings from Stephen Hadfield and particularly Dipak Bhakta who played unselfishly whilst Cooke knocked off the runs. In the second round against Heywood, Chris Bell, Iain Cooke, Carl Hope and Dipak Bhakta all bowled well, but once more our later bowlers gave away far too many runs and we were well beaten.

The Juniors had a strong side and in the second round dismissed Heywood for 51. Nick Bell and Richard Bowie bowled a very good line and length. Lambert opened with Nick Bell. Bell batted in typical orthodox style whilst Lambert effectively hit out and we got the runs for the loss of two wickets. In the final against Dalton, we lost our best batsman, Nick Bell, to an lbw decision and were soon in trouble. However, cricket is a team game and William Stoddart played an excellent innings of 50, ably supported by Tanuj Sobti who hit a quick 30 whilst Stoddart played "anchor man" for a bit. Hence we reached a satisfactory total of 161. Bell and Bowie again bowled well, but their openers were good batsmen who looked to be coasting home. However, three brilliant catches really won us the game. Charles Ellis took two, one held onto after a collision with another fielder. The other was a diving one handed catch. Then Matthew Robinson jumped to knock up a drive with one hand and managed to catch the rebound. Robert Seddon picked up a vital middle order wicket, but it was the flighted leg-spinners of Stoddart which demolished the rest of their order and we won the trophy.

In the Inter-House Rounders, Byrom Juniors lost to Heywood 3 - 10 and drew with Gaskell 2 - 2.

The Sports Day was interrupted by rain and was completed on the last day of term, hence the results are not available in detail. Byrom came fourth. (The Sports Day results do appear elsewhere in this edition. - Ed.).

Finally a word of thanks to my deputies, Mr Addison and Miss Priddle. They have given up their time generously to support the House and have been invaluable in their help and company on the Byrom House trips. The last of these was to Hardraw. A party ranging from sixth formers to third formers consisting of Jenny Ellis, Michelle Cowan, Andrew Nunney, David Hufton, Richard Lamb, Sophie Stephenson, David Johnson, Richard Bowie, Carrie Litherland, Lauren Crane (Byrom) and Ian Butterworth (Fraser) travelled to the Lake District accompanied by Mr Blight, Mr Addison and Miss Priddle. We were joined at Torver by Mr Veevers. On a sunny day we climbed Dow Crag, 2,600ft and then descended into Conistown via Brim Fell and Levers Water. After this exhausting climb and walk, the party "enjoyed "Mr Blight's" Chinese" cuisine of chicken fried rice! The next day, in a heat wave, we did a gentler walk over a scenic route from Keld to Muker. On the Sunday, a wetter day, we returned via Bolton Abbey.

It remains to say a very big "Thank you" to two excellent joint Heads of House, Alex Rodgers and Mark Shelmerdine. Both have made an outstanding contribution to the School and to Byrom House. It has been particularly gratifying to me during a long absence to see that the House runs effectively without its House Master.

Mr A M Blight



Byrom Senior 6-a-side 1st Team. Hewlett Cup winners.



Byrom Girls Senior Netball Team. Winners of Competition.



Byrom 4th Team Juniors (1st team). Hewlett Cup Winners.

DALTON HOUSE

MICHAELMAS TERM

The following appointments were made:

Head of House:	John Hall
Deputy Heads of House:	Jon Howarth, Debbie Segal
House Prefects:	Richard Gandy, Faresh Maisuria, Rakesh Patel, Anthony Sheldon, Ben Wood, Kathryne Arran, Jennie Colclough, Tarik Djeddour, Chris Gleave, Nadia Hanley, Afshin Matin-Razm, Daniel Rowlands, Spyros Xydeas
Rugby Captains:	(Senior K.O.) John Hall (Senior League) Jon Howarth (Juniors) Richard Beenstock, David Hancock
Swimming Organiser:	Jon Howarth
Road Relay Organiser:	Anthony Sheldon

Rugby: We relied upon the skill and strength of captain Jon Howarth, no 8 Spyros Xydeas and flanker Ankish Patel, and Lee Ahern hooked skilfully. Our backs looked confident, using the speed of Afshin Matin-Razm, the tackling of Anthony Sheldon and the kicking of Imran Khan. Most of all, players worked as a team and believed in themselves. We beat four of the five Houses in the League, twice scoring over 50 points, and went into a decider against Gaskell. Unfortunately, the heavy mud stopped our fast-running and passing game, and despite going ahead, we finally lost the match, and the League. It was still a very enjoyable season, with Ankish our player of the season.

In the Senior Knockout, our first match was against Byrom. When our forwards - mostly league players - started to win the ball, we pressed our advantage and Chris Gleave and Richard Gandy both scored tries and conversions, resulting in a 36-3 win. In the second match, against Heywood, we tried too much kicking, and made mistakes close to both lines. We did not work the ball well enough to win, and lost 7-14.

The Junior Knockout team had few star players, but did possess the strength and endeavour of captain Richard Beenstock and the speed and skill of David Hancock. Byrom had strong forwards, but we worked as a team to win 28-5. Our next opposition, Heywood, expected to beat us, but we won the ball in line-outs and tackled well in midfield, and the 41-0 win was very convincing. Our Final opponents, Gaskell, also expected to beat us, but flankers Paul Murphy and Josh Bloom both scored in our 20-10 win. Everyone played their part in superb team performances.

In the Ray Cox Senior 7-a-side tournament, difficult opposition were overcome in the first team, with wins against Whitworth and Heywood. A missed penalty kick at the end of the Final produced our only loss. The second team had one win and one draw, but the most successful team was the third, who had three very convincing wins, and together with it, a Dalton tournament win. In the Middle School tournament, our Fourth Year team showed excellent teamwork with strong tackling and all supported each other to produce three wins. The Third Years were to rely on David Hancock, but supported him well, especially Paul Murphy. All worked hard and won two matches, narrowly losing in the Final. Dalton were joint winners of the trophy.

Final Results: Senior League (2nd); Junior K.O. (Won); Senior 7's (Won); Junior 7's (1st=).

Swimming: Training early in the Term helped us sort out our teams, but we appeared to have few quality swimmers. Half of our individuals gained Final places, but few heats were won. Five of our six relay teams gained Final places, but, as it turned out, only the 3rd Year Medley team won their Final. In the individual competition, we had wins for David Hancock (3rd year breast stroke), Henry Hutchinson (4th year breast stroke), Jon Howarth (Senior freestyle), and, in winning the butterfly and individual medley, Oliver Briggs won the 3rd Year Individual Trophy.

Final Results: Relay competition (2nd); Individual competition (3rd)

Road Relay: Too few House members attended the training sessions for us to make any real impact in this competition. Three teams of boys and two of girls were selected, each containing one runner from each year group. The fastest overall 3rd year was David Hancock, the fastest 4th year was Richard Beenstock, and the Senior boys teams finished 1st, 2nd and 15th. Our girls teams, however, only managed to finish 10th and 11th.

Final Result: Road Relay (3rd)

LENT TERM

Lacrosse Captains:	Senior League: Ben Wood
Senior Knockout:	Chris Gleave
Junior Knockout:	James Calderbank
Junior Hockey and Netball Captain:	Geraldine Brook
House Play Producers:	Jenny Colclough, Debbie Segal
House Music Organiser:	Phillip Buxton

Lacrosse: The Senior League was decimated by the bad weather, and shortened matches were played on three days. The first match was lost, but after that, there was the commitment that had been seen the previous term, and the strength and

skill of Ben Wood and Richard Gandy were supplemented by hard work from the rest. The other four games were won - the last one with less than one minute remaining - and Dalton shared the trophy.

We had a lot of School players in the Senior Knockout team, and had a comfortable first-round win over Byrom, with Danny Rowlands scoring early goals in the 15-6 victory. The second round match, against Heywood, was played in torrential rain, with goalkeeper John Hall, playing part of the game in midfield, scoring in our 11-2 victory. The Final against Fraser was very tense, with our School attack against their School defence. Our shooting was very wild, and Fraser also missed chances. The full time score was 5-5, but, in extra time, Dominic Stansfield and Chris Gleave combined in the most decisive attack of the game, to give us a 6-5 victory.

The Junior Knockout team was not as strong as the Seniors, but James Calderbank and Miles Newton in midfield showed good handling in our 14-3 win over Heywood. In the next match, against Gaskell, we did not play as a team, and all of our players managed constantly to drop the ball. The 2-5 loss was all we could expect.

In the Hewlett Cup 6-a-side Competition, we felt that we had enough strength throughout the House to be in contention. The Senior 1st team won one of their preliminary matches, but failed to reach the Final. The 2nd team was disappointing, losing both matches. The 3rd team and the two Junior teams all made the Final, with the excellent 3rd year team winning all their games.

Final Results: Senior League (1st=); Senior K.O. (Won); Hewlett Cup (2nd)

Hockey and Netball: Our Junior Hockey team had good players in Geraldine Brook and Kate Williams, and the rest all worked hard to support them. Our problem was turning territorial advantage into goals, but short corners won us a place in the Final. Here, a strong Fraser team beat us 2-0. Our Senior team was short of players, and did well to win their first two matches, each 1-0. The semi-final was lost to Fraser on short corners.

The Junior netball team won one of their initial games, beat Gaskell in the semi-final, and faced Fraser in the Final. In a high scoring match, we came strong too late, and narrowly lost 7-9. The Seniors were again short, and did well to reach the semi-finals, where they lost.

Final Positions: Hockey - Senior (3rd), Junior (2nd); Netball - Senior (4th), Junior (2nd)

House Play: The Parcel, by David Campton, was produced by Jennie Colclough and Debbie Segal. Jennie Garside was Grandma ("The Parcel"), who was continually shunted around between relatives, until she went missing. Good performances from Debbie Segal and Jon Howarth, and a classic expression from 'Grandma' when she was found munching crisps, were not enough to overcome lack of practice from others.

House Music: We had a large entry of ten items, but lacked variety, as all were individual pieces. A very good performance by Paul Murphy on the saxophone was not supported by others who had not practised well enough.

Final Positions: Drama (6th), Music (4th).

MIDSUMMER TERM

Cricket Captains:	Senior Knockout:	John Hall
	Junior Knockout:	James Calderbank
	Junior Rounders Captain:	Geraldine Brook

Senior Knockout: Dalton 124 - 9 beat Whitworth 107 all out by 17 runs. Openers John Hall and Jon Flatman played well, the latter scoring 66, but our last five players were all out without scoring. Whitworth struggled against our latter bowlers of Afshin Matin-Razm (3 - 14) and Benny Woolrych (3 - 24).

Dalton 166 - 9 beat Fraser 74 all out by 92 runs. John Hall was our mainstay with 49 runs, with Jon Flatman (4 - 16) and Faisal Kureishy (3 - 7) our best bowlers.

(Final) Heywood 181 - 9 beat Dalton 179 all out by 2 runs. The bowling of Benny Woolrych (3 - 29) was not enough to keep down the score. A splendid opening partnership of 140 between John Hall (69) and Jon Flatman (77) kept us at the required rate, but our score went from 161 - 1 to 168 - 8 with five 'ducks'. A last-ditch flurry from Benny Woolrych almost won it for us, but we lost with two balls left.

Junior Knockout: Dalton 142 - 7 beat Gaskell 66 all out by 76 runs. Nokhaz Haider (49) and James Calderbank (26) were our main batsmen in a useful score. Gaskell were going well until Andrew Matson found his line and length to give us an easy win.

Dalton 165 - 4 beat Fraser 122 all out by 43 runs. Confident batting on a big pitch gave us a large score, thanks especially to Miles Newton (40) and James Calderbank (53). A century opening stand by Fraser was broken by Andrew Matson, before Paul took four middle-order wickets.

(Final) Byrom 160 all out beat Dalton 132 all out by 28 runs. Inconsistent bowling and poor fielding left us with a lot to do. A good opening partnership, with Miles Newton scoring 47, was not built upon, and few others batted with any confidence.

Junior Rounders: It was very pleasing to see how well all the girls played their part, with enthusiasm, skill and a desire for success. Rounders came from several different girls in their first stage wins, resulting in a semi-final place. For the third successive competition, we faced Fraser in the Final - and suffered the third successive loss.

Athletics: Sports Heats produced some useful results for Dalton, with all but two of the 4th year competitors reaching the Finals. The Finals day was interrupted by bad weather, but Dalton competitors managed to break four School records - two individual and two relays. Again, the fourth years were our success, whereas lack of participants prevented our fielding a Senior relay team. Our final position of third could have been better.

M D Wood



FRASER HOUSE



Head of House:	Manish Das*
Deputy Heads of House:	Nicholas D Goodwin* Samantha Waite*
House Prefects:	Tonye Adikibi, Michael D Brook, Thomas W Donnai, James A Ewen, Daniel A Gilbert,* Colin P Harris, Craig F McElhinney, S James Seddon, Craig Simkin,* and Jason R Tate.
	*denotes School Prefect

MICHAELMAS TERM

The House was delighted to learn that Manish Das had been appointed Deputy Head of School and James White Vice-Captain of Rugby. Congratulations to them both.

We welcome a very talented group of third-formers into Fraser this year and trust that they will soon make their presence felt:

Maame Ankrah	Richard Longworth
Nicholas Arthur	Sarah Moore
Craig Baker	Matthew Naylor
Timothy Barraclough	Debra Nussbaum
James Byrom	Thomas Ross
Michael Gale	Laura Smith
Luke Hassett	Amir Tabatabaei
Richard Ip	Richard Williams
Christopher Johnstone	Andrew Yates
Jahanzeb Junejo	Luc Zentar
Rachael Lee	

In the Lower Sixth Guy Maddock and Fahid Malik join us from other schools, and we hope they will soon become fully integrated into their new House and School.

What proved to be an extremely busy, eventful and successful year for the House was due to begin early in the term with the Road Relay Race, the nearest thing we have to inter-House cross-country. This year the event was postponed to mid-November, however, giving more time for trials and deliberations over which of the many eager volunteers would be selected to form the final team! When the Race eventually took place Fraser were runners-up for the third consecutive year - tremendously frustrating for those senior runners who have toiled away each year only to find outright victory eludes them by one or two places each time. Nevertheless it is a great credit to all the participants, and a significant indicator of the strength of the House, that we should continue to do so well.

Tim Barraclough (second), Rachael Lee (fourth) and Chris Johnstone ran well in the third form stage, both Sarah Cochrane and Edward Choularton came up six places, running second fastest of the fourth form girls and boys respectively, and Mark Buckley also ran an extremely fast circuit. Our fifth form group was much less effective over the more gruelling senior course, and in spite of solid runs from Simon Johnson and Caroline Ip we lay fifth as the sixth form teams went off. Geoff Barraclough and Mark Knowles ran good stages and maintained their position, but it was thanks to the remaining three runners, who pushed themselves really hard, that we had come back up to second place by the end of the race. Elisabeth Keable recorded the fourth fastest senior girls' time and Sally Ward the second fastest, Sally and Martin England each making up four places in the process.

This is possibly the last year that the Debating Competition will take place in its present form, affected as it will be by the reorganisation of the School day from September next. Since its inception five years ago the competition has greatly enhanced both inter-House activities and debating within the School at large. It is a cultured pursuit to which we should be giving a higher, not a lower profile and we will have to hope that time can be found next year to allow the inter-House debate to continue in a thoroughgoing form. "This House is proud to live in Britain today" was the motion to which Mark Knowles was required to speak in this year's competition. Although Mark's proposal had to be overheard rather than heard he succeeded in delivering an articulate and rousing eulogy of Great Britain. Tom Donnai, in seconding the motion, was as fluent and convincing as one would have expected, yet surprisingly passionate about his cultural heritage. The reaction from the floor, unusually, was disappointing, most points being directed at the opponents of the motion, so that opportunities for producing spontaneous responses and fielding awkward questions were very limited. After our debate it was refreshing to hear an adjudicator who was prepared not to gloss over some of the more unforgivable shortcomings of the debaters such as irrelevance and poor preparation. The whole event was entertaining and polemical. Fraser came off second best, however, but continues to maintain an outstanding record in the competition. On his retirement as organiser of the inter-House Debates we must express our gratitude to Mr Watson. He conceived the event in the first place and has run it punctiliously and with enthusiasm for five years. I sincerely hope that it will remain as a tribute to his conviction in the importance and power of debate.

Rugby! No other game seems to arouse such vehement feelings, either for it or against it, certainly at House level. And it remains a major preoccupation of dozens of boys - and some girls - from September to December and beyond. Fortunately for House rugby there are still enough committed and competent players to ensure the continuance of the several inter-House contests we run, although it has become noticeably more of a challenge in recent years to turn out fifteen credible players to take part in the senior league each week. The other factor affecting rugby increasingly, as it has done for some years to lacrosse, is the encroachment on scheduled fifth and sixth form games periods of other activities - lectures, Corps Field Day this year, knockout matches, the Road Relay, Trial Exams, all of which are now held on games days, to the detriment of this essential element in our curriculum. However we have all had to be flexible, with the result that a somewhat streamlined programme of fixtures involving just one senior XV continues to operate. Boys are playing much less rugby nowadays and of course this is reflected in their experience and expertise.

After a couple of good early wins against Heywood and Whitworth Nick Goodwin's XV settled down into the usual pattern of mixed fortunes, but their enthusiasm and commitment could not be faulted. Our strength was chiefly in the pack, where the combined forces of Saadi Hasan, Rizwan Ahmed, Kamron Khan, James Ewen and Nick Goodwin at number 8 were hard to stop. Half-backs Craig McElhinney and Josh Robinson were slick and efficient and the powerful running of John Foggon and Manish Das were also influential factors. Daniel Gilbert, Andrew Lole, Geoff Barraclough, Guy Maddock, Adam Samuels and Paul Bagnall all had their moments in a successful and enjoyable season. Many of this XV will be with us next year and so we *should* go from strength to strength - but who will replace Nick Goodwin?

With a strong group of School players in the House it looked as if we had a better than even chance of progressing through to the Senior Knockout Final. It was not to be, however. Even the likes of Tonye Adikibi, Mark Knowles, James White, Richard England, Simon Johnson and Adnan Malik could not avert our defeat by Gaskell, and out we went in the first round. The Junior team fared even worse, partly, it must be said, because of a selfish, petulant attitude in one or two boys whose School experience should have taught them to display more character and sense of teamwork. The final score of 12-51 against Whitworth was disgraceful under the circumstances, and unfortunately reflected discredit on the entire XV despite the fact that some less-experienced players gave their all, as always. I hope not to see a Fraser game deteriorate into such a sorry spectacle ever again.

Only the Sevens competitions remained. Our third VII in the Ray Cox (senior) tournament was inexperienced but enthusiastic, and were clearly out to enjoy themselves. Fair enough! Although they lost both their games they actually played quite well, and Mike Brook was a revelation. Thanks to Geoff Barraclough for his captaincy from the front! The second VII had a little bad luck, after playing with gusto. Craigs Simkin and McElhinney, Nick Goodwin, Manish Das and John Foggon were especially effective and never gave up. John's tackling was crucial, as he twice chased and caught an opponent just under our posts. A draw with Byrom then defeat by Heywood was the final outcome. The performance of our first VII was outstanding. They played the very highest standard of House sevens rugby, using intelligence and guile and always playing to their considerable strengths. Not for a moment did they let their guard down, or relax their efforts, and they were rewarded with three consecutive wins - and without a break to recuperate in between. Simon Johnson's kicking came good in the Final just when it was needed, James and Mark planned two tries which Tonye executed with precision, Richard England worked very hard and scored an excellent forward's try, Adnan ran, tackled and kindly shared his orange juice, and David Slack had an impressive comeback. Much of the credit for the team's success (against an extremely strong and determined Dalton VII) must go to James and Mark for their superb organisation and planning on and off the field. Can they do the same again in next year's knockout as well?



The Third Form Sevens Team.

The Junior competition was disappointing for our two teams, although they both won their final matches - for the wooden spoon. The older team was simply not good enough to do any better than they did, but their performances were redeemed by some strong runs by Graham Thornton and Matthew Healey, well supported by House players Riaz Ahmed, Nilesch Patel and Mark Buckley; and in their victory over Heywood in the "final" they managed to keep their game tight and play sensibly. The third-formers should really have done better. They scored first against Gaskell then had tries disallowed which caused them to lose concentration and start to question the referee's decisions, losing by a mere two points. Against Dalton we simply allowed one player to run through and did not have the force to stop him or to come back and score ourselves. Fortunately we managed to hold things together in the play-off and beat Byrom comfortably.

One cold weekend in November Elisabeth Keable and Andrew Lole (L6) took part in an Outward Bound Challenge Day organised by MIND, the mental health charity. Both of them raised over £100 sponsorship for this worthwhile event, to which their House was pleased to make a donation. Their report appears elsewhere in the *Hulmeian*.

At about the same time these two, together with Mark Knowles, Jasel Mehta, Sarah Porter and David Slack were elected to the Sixth Form Committee.

Fraser did not distinguish itself as a House in this year's Swimming Sports, but as ever there were highlights! Byrom and Dalton virtually swept the board in the six relays, leaving us the consolation of an excellent win in the fourth form Medley (after our other two teams had been disqualified). This was our only first place, though: second placed were Louise Wellock, Sarah Cochrane and James Byrom, and third were James White, Edward Choularton and Richard Porter. In the end we were fourth in both relay and individual competitions. It was a great treat for everybody to see James Hickman swim for the last time at School, and predictably take the Senior Backstroke and Individual Medley records, both of which will no doubt stand for a long, long time.

A *Christmas Celebration* lived up to our high expectations this year, and contributions came from a notable Fraser group, most of whom were to take part in the House Music Competition the following term. They were Nicky Arthur, Geoff Barraclough, Sam Burney, Colin Harris, Elisabeth Keable, Richard Longworth, Sarah Porter and Laura Smith. Dare one mention the Junior Disco in the same breath? Well, among those volunteering to help supervise was a Fraser contingent of Sally Ward, Sarah Porter, Alice Caine, Mark Knowles and Andrew Lole.

School Colours were awarded at Christmas as follows:

Community Service:	Louise Shroot
Rugby:	Tonye Adikibi; Richard England; Simon Johnson; Adnan Malik
Cross Country:	Martin England

The term ended with the announcement that Craig Simkin had been appointed Captain of Lacrosse and Nick Goodwin Captain of the Second X.

LENT TERM

We were pleased to learn that Craig Simkin and Nicholas Goodwin had been offered places at Oxford.

Hockey! The girls had already made a significant contribution to the House before Christmas but at last they would have some events of their own to compete in. Their sporting calendar began with a very strong performance in the first round of the Junior (third and fourth) Hockey one very cold afternoon in January. Rachel Goodwin, Sarah Cochrane (capt), Rachael Lee, Laura Smith and Maame Ankrah shone in their particular departments. Sarah Moore and Soraya Khan (full-back and



Winners of the Senior Hockey, 1994.

GK) were not kept very busy in defence, but good support came from Sadia Ahamed and Kelly Bagnall, who failed to convince me by her determined performance that she hates hockey! Having beaten Byrom and Heywood 4-0 and 1-0 respectively, we went into the second and last stage with maximum points and a lot of confidence. Inexplicably we failed to score against Whitworth, going into the Final itself on short corners to meet the comfortable winners of the other group, Dalton. All the girls came into their own against this strong opposition, especially Debra Nussbaum, who had had a disappointing first couple of matches. This time the players gelled outstandingly well as a team and were more than a match for their opponents, scoring two good goals (and narrowly missing several others) - the first of three Finals against Dalton this season.

The senior XI looked much less likely to do well, but went into their competition with a positive, if realistic, attitude! Losing to Gaskell 0-1 then recording a 2-0 win over Heywood at least gave the girls a chance of avoiding ignominy in the following round. Then, despite considerable pressure on the Dalton and Gaskell goals and performances of impressive grit and skill from Sam Waite (U6), Sally Ward and Elisabeth Keable (L6), and Karen Hawcroft, Caroline Ip and Alice Caine (5th), we just could not score, so we had to rely on a total of five penalty corners to come through and, perhaps to our surprise, win the day! Nothing gave Fraser's hockey-playing House Master so much pleasure this year as this hockey double.

Early in February *Grease* was staged after a long period of rehearsals, and several members of the House were heavily involved: James White and Paul Bagnall took major rôles, Sam Waite and Alice Caine were in the Chorus, Sam also helped design the sets, and Vinnie Pohoomull, Sarah Porter and Sally Ward worked hard on the Stage Staff

After last season's perfect weather and uninterrupted programme of lacrosse fixtures, wasn't it just inevitable that this year things would revert to normal! For three weeks the pitches were unplayable, super-saturated from day after day of heavy rain. The first match saw our huge squad of sixteen beat Whitworth 10-4, but thereafter there was so little time left (every Wednesday afternoon post-Half Term being taken up with some activity other than league lacrosse fixtures, incredibly) that each House had to play two games per afternoon in order to meet all the other Houses. In fact these shorter matches were hard fought dynamic affairs and produced some excellent lacrosse. Our senior X was selected from Craig McElhinney (capt), Manish Das, Daniel Gilbert (egg-and-spoon specialist), James Ewen, John Foggon, Saadi Hasan (who made some startling unorthodox saves in goal), Geoff Barraclough, Rizwan Ahmed, Andrew Lole, Ian Ratcliffe, Jasel Mehta, Simon Johnson, Adnan Malik, Kamron Khan, and occasionally coach and advisor Mike Brook. So, we beat Whitworth, then Heywood, Byrom and Gaskell quite comfortably, but in the very last match against Dalton we let in a last-minute goal out of sheer complacency to lose 2-3. The effect of this one goal was that we went from potential league champions to sharing the honours with two other Houses; not particularly important in itself, no doubt, but a disappointing and unnecessary reminder of the tired cliché that no game is won until the final whistle blows. This was still a season to be proud of, nevertheless. Saadi had conceded virtually no goals in five matches, due to sheer courage and a cricketer's eye for the ball; the inexhaustible Craig McElhinney captained quietly by example; John, Jasel and Ian gave outstanding support from the Lower Sixth; and fifth-formers Kamron and Simon put their skilful stickwork and apparent tirelessness to good effect throughout.

A bye into the second round of the Senior Knockout gave us an unexpectedly easy victory, (6-0 v Gaskell) with six players missing, leaving a squad of ten - not much scope for substitutions! In the final versus Dalton the score at full time was 5-5 and the circumstances sensibly dictated a "sudden death" finish. It was Dalton, unfortunately, who brought about our sudden death after a fiercely contested match dominated by Dalton's attack and Fraser's excellent defence led by Craig Simkin (capt). The weather was (typically) filthy wet and freezing cold, yet everybody in the squad displayed a genuine will to win. Craig's wizardry with the long stick, James White's groundball and aggressive checking, John Foggon's trans-Atlantic wrap-checks, Mark Knowles's sure eye and fearless goalkeeping, Nick Goodwin and Rick England's dependability, Josh Robinson's ability to hold and run with the ball, and Mike Brooks's all-round skill and vision, considering how seldom



Our unbeaten Junior Netball Team.
Capt: Rachel Goodwin (far right).
(Photo: D. M. Fisher)